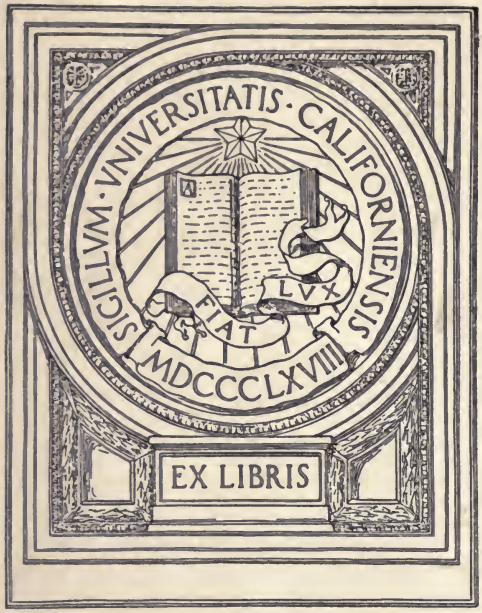

TESTIMONIALS AND RECORDS,

TOGETHER WITH

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF SPECIAL ACTION

FOR OUR

INDIAN TRIBES:

BY

DR. E. WHITE,
OF SAN FRANCISCO.

WASHINGTON:
PRINTED BY R. A. WATERS.
1861.

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PREFACE.

One of the leading objects of this pamphlet, is to arrest and direct attention to the condition of our Western Indian tribes, in hopes thereby to procure from the present Administration, such measures as shall tend to their relief; and advancement in the paths of reform and civilization.

And should any, after an examination of the views of my friends; a scanning of my past record, and considering my experience and observation; acquired from a residence of twenty-five years upon the Pacific Coast; think my views entitled to a sufficient consideration; I will feel obliged if they will give them a perusal. They will find remarks upon their present condition; and the Author's views of what ought to be done by this Administration, commencing on page 81.

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT,

MAY 1ST, 1861.

I hereby certify that the enclosed letters, recommending Dr. Elijah White, are true copies of the originals now on file in this office.

JOHN F. MOORE,

Copyist.

TESTIMONIALS.

MAY 10, 1861.

Will the Commissioner of Indian Affairs consider whether what Dr. White desires can be made available for good, and then, whether the Executive has any lawful authority to do it.

A. LINCOLN.

WASHINGTON, MAY 31ST, 1861.

HON. A. LINCOLN,,
President United States.

DEAR SIR: Dr. White has again called my attention to your note in relation to his appointment to a mission on the Pacific coast. I have not hesitated to recommend the appointment on the account of any objection to Dr. White. I consider him eminently qualified for any position in the Indian service. I have, however, doubted the necessity of any additional officers to carry out his views. I have thought the Superintendent of Indian Affairs could and should attend to the duties proposed to be performed by him; many others of moreexperience and better qualified perhaps, in every way, to judge of this matter, think differently.

I am, therefore, not only willing, but rather anxious to see the experiment tried, of having an agent or officer in that country clothed with special powers from the President, who will, uninfluenced by the pressure surrounding the local superintendants and agents, keep the Department advised of the condition of things pertaining to the Indian service in that country.

He could be clothed with power to restrain both the whites and the Indians from their wicked raids upon each other. But, to do this, he must have some military power, or power over the military, and this is as necessary to prevent depredations of whites upon the Indians, as of the Indians upon the whites. It is a true saying, that "it is cheaper to feed Indians than to fight them," and

it is equally true, that our wars with them will continue so long as wrongs, (often imaginary,) committed by individual Indians, are redressed upon the whole tribe by *unauthorized* bands of whites, who expect, and who have heretofore received pay for their slaughter of the Indians from the Treasury of the United States.

I have very little doubt that a faithful agent could bring to our knowledge sufficient cases of unnecessary expenses, to much more than reimburse the expenses incurred by his appointment, and which might remain unknown but for him. I will close by saying, that I have been anxious to secure the services of Dr. White and Dr. Dart in the Department over which you have appointed me to preside. They have large experience, and, *I believe*, they have a clear record.

I have no doubt about your having the legal power to appoint an agent of this kind, should you think proper to do so.

Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM P. DOLE.

I entirely concur in all that is said in the foregoing letter of the Commissioner on Indian Affairs.

SOLOMON FOOT.

(From the Ithaca Journal and Advertiser.)

☞ We observed by a late number of the "National Republican," published at Washington, that Dr. Elijah White, formerly a citizen of this county, now of San Francisco, is about receiving an important office from the administration, as a special agent of Indian affairs on the Pacific coast.

This appointment will be highly gratifying to his numerous Republican friends and former neighbors of Tompkins and Schuyler counties. We cannot do justice to our feelings respecting this appointment without saying, that *Dr. White is eminently fit to discharge the responsible duties of the office.*

(From the National Republican.)

"We learn that the Commissioner af Indian Affairs, has recommended the appointment of Dr. E. White as a special agent upon our Pacific coast, to report upon measures of reform in our Indian relations in that quarter, and to be clothed with necessary powers to prevent all such collisions between the Indians and the whites as are avoidable. Both the creation of this special agency, and the designation of Dr. White to fill it, are made under the advice

of those who best understand what a sound Indian policy requires, such as Mr. Schoolcraft, Gov. Gilpin, and others.

"A leading object of this proposed appointment, is to give to the Indian Bureau an officer on the Pacific coast, not likely to be reached by the local influences which may affect the judgment and action of resident supritendents and agents.

The present Commissioner of Indian Affairs evidently means to make an earnest endeavor to correct the abuses which have grown up in the widely extended and constantly increasing branch of the public service, placed under his charge. If he fails, it will not be from the lack of courage, decision, and administrative ability, all of which he possesses in an eminent degree, but because the abuses are in themselves irremediable. It is not wonderful that many think them so, from their long standing, but we do not despair of their yielding to a wise and faithful treatment.

"Dr. White went to Oregon in 1836, as a surgeon and physician attached to the mission sent there by the M. E. Church, and which was the first mission sent to Oregon. In 1842, he was charged by the Government at Washington with the control of Indian affairs in Oregon, in which he continued until 1846, to the entire acceptance of Hon. T. Hartley Crawford, Hon. T. J. Porter and Hon. William Medill, who were severally at the head of the Indian Bureau during that period, and his labors were specially acknowledged in a report from Hon. J. C. Spencer, Secretary of War.

"Dr. White's appointment in 1842, was tendered by the Government at the instance of the late Senator, Dr. Linn. In 1846, he gave up the appointment, in order to visit Washington, as a representative of the interests of Oregon, having been unanimously designated to do so, by the provisional Legislature of that Territory."

(From the American Citizen.)

ITHACA, N. Y.

The Doct. White here mentioned, is Dr. Elijah White, who came to this county when about twenty years of age, and remained a citizen, residing generally in the town of Lansing, with occasional interruptions, in going to Oregon, until 1849; when he went to California in a company formed under his auspices at this place. Few men have passed through a more varied experience in connection with Indian life, and few can be better qualified for the agency, with which it is proposed to invest him. He is thoroughly acquainted with the Indian character, and knows precisely what policy is most proper to be adopted in respect to that unfortunate race. The adventures through which he has passed, furnish a sufficient guaranty of his indomitable energy; and superadded to

this, are integrity and tenacity of purpose. We have no right to advise, but we may express the hope that this appointment will be made. If Mr. Lincoln made no poorer appointments than this, we shall have a rare list of public servants.

WASHINGTON, D. C, MAY 27TH, 1861.

HON. ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President United States.

SIR: I am satisfied from many years experience and observation, that our Indian system is defective. From the days of General Washington to the present time, our Indian tribes have been considered as a race entitled to our highest benevolence and justice. The public policy respecting them has been more unsettled and fluctuating than any other department of the Government. For the purpose of making treaties with them, they have been regarded as foreign nations, but for all other purposes, the Government has assumed to them the position of a guardian. To take care of their funds and to apply them in such manner as best to promote their education, advance in agriculture and the arts, and other means of civilization and prosperity, have been the leading object of policy. But as the objects are to be collected at a distance from the seat of Government, and as the tribes themselves have often removed from place to place as civilization has pressed upon them, the diffiiculty of the Indian administration has been complicated. Agencies of varions kinds have been employed, which have not in all cases secured the best and most efficient modes of procedure. This difficulty has been multiplied in proportion as we have proceeded from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean. In California, Oregon, and Washington, our Indian affairs have, from the beginning, assumed a peculiar character. The tribes of that coast are perhaps of an inferior mental type, at any rate, the inhabitants have treated them as such, wars and struggles between themselves and the emigrants have made the duties of our agents in that quarter, onerous, and the present lamentable state of affairs there is such as to demand attention from Government. I am of opinion that an agent of sound moral and mental character, who is practically acquainted with the Indians and the country they occupy, if now dispatched to that region to make a report upon the tribes, missions and stations, and the best mode of leading them on in the paths of education and industry, the Indian Bureau would be enabled thereby to reach some improved plan for the reclamation and civilization of this unfortunate race, who is entitled to our noblest sympathies.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY R. SCHOOLCRAFT.

WASHINGTON CITY, MAY 24TH, 1861.

HON. WILLIAM P. DOLE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

SIR: My much esteemed friend Dr. E. White of San Francisco, has called my attention to a subject on which (during the past eight years,) I have thought much, and seriously; and after reading his commendatory letters from the *first men* on our coast, many of whom I am well acquainted with, I take pleasure in writing a letter on the subject, regretting that a letter sheet is much too small a space in which to clearly show the mismanagement, and the reforms necessary in the management of our Indian affairs on the Pacific coast, and that I am unknown to yourself, for I earnestly desire that our Pacific Indians may be fairly dealt with, and that the munificent provisions the Government has made for these poor helpless beings, may be so dispensed as to answer the purpose intended.

I was for some years doing business in the mountains of California, (Sierra Nevada,) during which time I had ample opportunities of noticing the effects of mismanagement, intentional or otherwise, which the condition of the poor Indians about us, too plainly showed.

Subsequently my attention was drawn to the state of things in Washoe, consequent upon the overrunning of these vallies by California miners, whilst no attention was paid to the comfort of the Pah Utes; and Winnemacca's speech to Colonel Lander after the termination of that butchery, confirmed my impressions. Old Winnemucca said, that their seed ground had been taken from his people—the whites refused to give them bread—they were driven to the snowy mountains, there to starve, and the least *he* could do was to *try* to drive the whites from his country. He had failed, and now he and his people must waste away or be compensated for their lands. That speech *tells* sir, the true state of things among the tribes of our coast.

Winnemucca desired to have his people taught to grow grain, make their own bread, and be supplied with the means of living peaceably and quietly amongst or near the whites.

I believe the Government has so provided for all our Indian tribes; but sir, I have seen many evidences of peculations in office. Much money was paid by the Government for food, &c. for the Indians, but the poor creatures never tasted that food in many instances.

The officers appointed by *this* Administration may lawfully and faithfully discharge their duties, and even then, there is *much* at slight cost, that may be done to keep those Indians happy and peaceable, and every year their expenses grow less, until they

finally sustain themselves without expense to the General Government.

Notwithstanding the heavy sums of money that have been spent on account of the Indians on that coast, I do not believe that their condition has been improved one iota. I do not wish to be understood as charging wholesale wrong upon our Indian agents—some, I believe, discharged their duties faithfully and honestly, but *all* did not do so, and where they *did*, many reforms might have been introduced successfully, if the Government had appointed some competent person to visit each reservation, examine its condition, see that the agents did their duties, recommend such reforms to the Department as presented themselves to his mind, make the amelioration of the condition of the poor Indian his *object*, the keeping of the peace between them and the *whites*, his object; and always keeping in view the interests of the Government, *his employer*.

I believe *such* an officer on that coast, necessary; he must be honest, faithful, and capable. Dr. E. White, who thoroughly understands the Indians, their wants and necessities, and is fully alive to the obligations of a Government officer, is pre-eminently the *man* for the position. I know *many* Indian agents, but I know *none* the equal of Dr. White, the kind, capable, faithful, and the just.

This letter may do neither himself or the Indians any good, for I am entirely unknown by yourself, but I am *sure* that if you were as familiar with the condition of things on the Pacific coast as I am, you would acknowledge the truths I have presented for your consideration. During an interview with Mr. Schoolcraft of this city, I found that he argreed fully with me, *that*, in the absence of Congress, the Executive has *full* power to send such an officer, and I am *sure* the Administration will *never* regret it, if done; for *much* money and many lives would probably be saved, by the faithful performance of this duty; and believing that no better selection than Dr. White could be made for that position, I do not hesitate to recommend him.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. ROLLINGS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 16TH, 1861.

HON. WILLIAM P. DOLE,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

SIR: I have pleasure in addressing you in reference to Dr. Elijah White. He was our first Indian agent among the tribes on the Pacific coast; and by his social, moral, and intellectual

character during a long residence in that region of country; has acquired a reputation above that of any other officer of the Indian Department in that region. He is well acquainted with the Indian character, and with the policy that should be pursued respecting them. He is well known to the Indian tribes, and would have an important influence among them. I know of no person who is so competent to execute the office of Indian affairs on the Pacific coast; and I earnestly hope you will confer on him an appointment.

I am sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
HENRY R. SCHOOLCRAFT.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 25TH, 1861.

HON. CALEB G. SMITH,
Secretary of the Interior.

Dr. Elijah White of San Francisco, for twenty-five years resident in Oregon and California, asks the position of "Superintendent of Indians for the State of California."

Dr. White was accredited agent in Oregon for several years before the treaty of London. He performed inestimable services for a very meagre salary. I was his guest in 1843 and 1844, on the Willamette. He is entitled to the gratitude of the *American people*, as an energetic leader of the very first settlement on the Pacific. He is in all things worthy of this office; of *sterling* integrity, energy, capacity, experience, and fitness. An intimate acquaintance with himself, his career, and the tenor of his useful life, all prompt me to zealously recommend him, and urge the great propriety and justice of his appointment.

Respectfully,
WILLIAM GILPIN.
Governor of Colorado Territory.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., JUNE 20, 1861.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY,
The President of the United States

HONORED SIR: I feel so strongly desirous that your great father-ship over the suffering Indian family, may be put upon an elevation never yet attained, and for which the poor savage is so deeply interested, that I am induced to express to you a few of the most convincing reasons for the appointment of Dr. Elijah White, as a supervisory agent of the Pacific coast.

From an intimate acquaintance of nearly twelve years with Dr. White, and the Indian interests of the Pacific coast, I feel competent to say that for sterling integrity, moral worth, natural and acquired ability, extensive knowledge of, and earnest zeal for, as well indomitable energy, skill and perseverance in this enterprise, no man probably can be found in every respect, so thoroughly qualified as Doctor White—his high standing among the scientific, literary, and religious bodies of the Pacific—his ardent spirit and devotion, as well as unconquerable will, in this much needed reform, and with all his genial social nature imbued with this one mission of mercy—his great experience and sound practical judgment so manifest in his past federal record; all these with many other reasons entitles him, honored sir, to your most favorable consideration; and rest assured sir, should the imploring cries of those suffering children of the Great Father for humane and kind treatment be rendered, it will call down upon you Heaven's blessings.

In my judgment, this great desideratum cannot be attained by the present agency system. There must be a government officer "over all," not a disbursing one, but an over-seer so far removed from the various temptations attendant on the present agency system, as to ensure justice, both to Governmet and the governed.

From what attention and observation I have been able to give, I am clearly of the opinion much evil might be averted and hundreds of thousands of dollars saved to the Treasury of the United States annually in wars and other ways, by the appointment of such an officer, and the funds appropriated for the poor humbled, needy aboriginees go to the objects designed by the Government. Therefore, for this special supervisory agency I pray your most fovorable consideration; and I trust it will be inaugurated, as I feel assured it will give an earnest of a better rule in Indian affairs upon the Pacific coast.

With highest respect, I am most sincerely,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT KELLEN.

Member of the California Annual Conference of Methodist Church.

LUDLOWVILLE, TOMPKINS COUNTY, N. Y.,
JUNE 8TH, 1861.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

RESPECTED SIR: Permit me to say a word in favor of the ap-

pointment as "Special agent over Indian affairs for the Pacific coast," of the bearer hereof, Doctor Elijah White.

From an acquaintance with Dr. White—a portion of the time, a very intimate acquaintance for about twenty years, I feel fully justified in speaking of him as eminently fitted for this position. He is not only "honest and capable," but has had large acquaintance with the Indian tribes, and possesses in a most extraordinary degree, the qualities and qualifications to render him a most effective and successful agent. Dr. White, through a course of large experience, presents a record untarnished, and such as gives the assurance that he seeks the present appointment, not alone for the selfish purpose of promoting his own interests, but for the object of benefitting the Indian tribes, as well as protecting the honor of the American Government.

With great consideration,

Your obedient servant,

BENJAMIN JOY.

Mr. Joy was a member of the Committee on Indian affairs in the Legislature of New York in 1856.

E. W.

ITHACA, FEBRUARY 9, 1861.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

DEAR GOVERNOR: Permit me the pleasure of introducing to your favorable notice *Dr. Elijah White of San Francisco, California*, who is not entirely unknown to fame. From many years personal acquaitnance, almost from boyhood, I can cheerfully bear testimony to his *moral character, and standing as a man.* And also the records of the Federal Government show that he has faithfully, and with distinguished ability, for several years discharged perilous, laborious, and responsible duties of sub-agent among the Indian tribes of Oregon.

We can almost in truth say, that he has introduced in his own person, the imigration to, and settlement of our Pacific coast.

You will observe he is desiring from the incoming administration, an office—superintendent of the Indian tribes in the State of California. By his peculiar knowledge of the Indian character, he is well qualified to discharge its multifarious and arduous duties, with honor to himself and country.

Indeed, sir, in all my acquaintance, I do not know a man so well fitted for the office, as Dr. White.

He comes highly recommended from his friends and republican people of his own state. Therefore, I earnestly solicit that if you

can, consistent with public duty, after the inauguration of the President elect you will give him the influence of your distinguished name, and impress upon the appointing power his appointment.

By so doing, you will confer a favor upon a worthy man, and which will be highly gratifying to your numerous friends of Tompkins County, his former place of residence. And I am assured that the appointment would be alike gratifying to your ardent and devoted friends of the golden State, of which he is one of your honorable admirers.

Believing, also, that the time has already arrived in the history of the country when HONEST MEN are about taking possession of the Government—and thus believing, I can but hope that his appointment, in due time, will be made. Meantime believe me to be, very truly, your friend.

SAMUEL LOVE.

SENATE CHAMBER, MARCH 8TH, 1861.

HON. C. B. SMITH,

Secretary of the Interior.

SIR: The bearer of this note, Dr. E. White of California, desires the office of Superintendent of Indian Affairs for that state.

I have no doubt of his *eminent fitness* and purity of character, and hope you may find it consistent with your convictions of public duty, to advise his appointment.

Should you have doubt after reading his papers, I hope action may be delayed until recommendations now on the way from California, may have been received and presented.

Your obedient servant,

JAMES HARLAN.

SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER 11TH, 1860.

HON. ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President of the United States.

DEAR SIR: I am aware that I pass beyond the line of established authority, in undertaking to join in any recommendation to a Republican Administration, but I will offer the character and qualifications of Dr. White, (they being exceptional,) as my apology.

Dr. White was, at a very early day, sub-Indian agent in Oregon, and was the first to lead an emigration to that portion of our Territories. He filled the position several years, and received the

highest testimonials from those whose business it was to understand the nature of his services.

His past experience, and I believe his personal character, eminently qualify him for the really delicate and difficult task he seeks to be employed about. For some years past, he has been a resident of San Francisco, and is highly esteemed as a gentleman of intelligence and integrity. As for his political merits, his fellow Republicans will be able to speak for him. Having been called upon by Dr. White for my voice in his favor, I have felt it my duty to answer his request by this note, trusting that if it be of no service to him, as a recommendation, it will not at any rate, prejudice the just consideration to which his party recommendations may entitle him.

Respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. A. McDOUGALL.

SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 20, 1860.

HON. ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
President elect of the U. S. of America.

DEAR SIR: I have been intimately acquainted with Dr. Elijah White, of the city of San Francisco, California, for more than six years. Dr. White is a gentleman of good education, of good character, and highly esteemed by the citizens of San Francisco, and by the people of the State of California.

He is a gentleman of enlarged experience, good practical judgment, and entire integrity. He is a good Republican, and during the campaign has fought the battle for Lincoln and Hamlin, and Republican principles, with a zeal and a power worthy of the campaign of 1860.

In my judgment, Dr. Elijah White is well calculated to perform with credit to himself, with credit to your administration, and with satisfaction to the people of California, the duties of the position of superintendent of *Indian Affairs* in this State, or any agency thereto belonging; and with the fullest belief of his fitness, I recommend him to your favorable consideration.

And, in conclusion, allow me to say, that I too am a Republican, and am a senator elect to the Legislature of this State, and I am also a personal acquaintance and friend of the Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, Vice President elect of the United States.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
CALEB BURBANK,

SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 24, 1860.

HON. ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President elect of the U. S. of America.

DEAR SIR: I have just read a letter of the Hon. Caleb Burbank, dated San Francisco, November 20, 1860, regarding the character, position, and abilities of Dr. Elijah White; and from an acquaintance with the Doctor for more than five years, I am able to confirm all therein set forth.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM SHERMAN,

President of Republican Central Club of San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 25, 1860.

His Excellency, ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President of the United States.

SIR: The bearer of this, Dr. Elijah White, is an applicant for the office of Superintendent of Indian Affairs for California. It has been thought proper hitherto to bestow that office upon gamblers and dishonest men. We shall all agree that men of opposite character should be employed in all positions, and especially in one where the reformation of the Indian depends so much upon the personal feeling and character of his overseer. Dr. White was for some years sub-agent on this coast, under Tyler and Polk, and has a full knowledge of the duties of the place. He is also a man of first-rate reputation. His appointment will give universal satisfaction. Either of the Senators from Vermont or Wisconsin, will do me the honor, I think, to vouch for my character, as showing the value of my recommendation.

Your obedient servant,

JAMES Mc M. SHAFTER,

State Senator for California.

SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER 1ST, 1860.

HON. ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President elect of the United States.

HONORED SIR: The bearer of this, Dr. Elijah White, is an applicant for the position of Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern District of California, and it affords me sincere pleasure to recommend him to you as a suitable person to administer the duties of that office. An experience of several years in a similar position in Oregon, has enabled him to acquire a fund of valuable practical information in relation to the management of the Indi-

ans peculiar to this coast, by means of which he will, if appointed, be able to conduct the affairs of his office, from the commencement of his term, with credit to himself, and, as I have reason to believe, to the satisfaction of the Government.

Dr. White is an upright and honorable gentleman, a consistent and hard working Republican, and I consider him, in all respects, worthy the position to which he aspires.

I am, with great respect,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN W. CHERRY,
Assemblyman from San Francisco, 1858, '59, *and* '61.

SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER 14TH, 1861.

HON. A. LINCOLN,

DEAR SIR: For a number of years I have been well acquainted with Dr. E. White, and know him to be an esteemed citizen, and an earnest, active, EFFICIENT Republican.

Having been connected with the management of Indian Affairs, he is *well* fitted for a prominent position in that Department.

Yours truly,
JAMES A. BANKS,
Republican member of Assembly from San Francisco, for 1858, '59, *and* '61.

SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 29TH, 1860.

HON. ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
President elect of the United States of America.

DEAR SIR: I have learned with satisfaction that Dr. Elijah White of San Francisco, is an applicant for an appointment from your Excellency, as Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern District of the State of California. The Doctor was one of the earliest pioneers of the Pacific coast, having emigrated to Oregon as early as 1842, where he served the Government of the United States as Indian agent for that territory, under the administration of Presidents Tyler and Polk. From Oregon, he came to California at an early period of her history as a State, and where I have known him for several years as an honest and upright citizen, and it is with unfeigned pleasure that I recommend him to you as an active and consistent Republican, and an excellent individual for the position he seeks from your hands.

Most respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
S. S. TILTON,
Member of Assembly of State of California, 11th and 12th sessions—1860 '61.

SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER 27TH, 1860.

To ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President elect of the United States.

DEAR SIR: After twelve years intimate aquaintance with Dr. E. White, I take great pleasure in recommending him as a suitable person for Indian agent for the Northern District of California.

He has had much experience among Indians, and is therefore familiar with their characteristics, having been a long time agent of Indian Affairs in the early settlement of Oregon.

I know of no man who would be so likely to preserve peace between the whites and Indians without resort to arms.

I am, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

A. S. BROWN,

District Attorney for city and county of San Francisco.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH 8TH, 1861.

HON. JAMES HARLAN,

U. S. Senator.

DEAR SIR: Dr. E. White informs me, that he is an applicant for the office of Superintendent of Indian Affairs in California. While I have no desire to meddle with the appointments, I desire to say that I knew the Doctor in an early day in Oregon, and while he was connected with the Indian Department there, and believe that he discharged his duties to the satisfaction of the *people* and the *Government.*

Respectfully yours,

J. W. NESMITH.

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 25TH, 1861.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President of the United States.

My connection with Indian agencies in Oregon, gave me an early acquaintance with Dr. E. White, who had at an early day been sent to Oregon by the then War Department, as sub-agent of Indian Affairs.

I believe Dr. White was a faithful and efficient officer, and is now well qualified to conduct Indian Affairs under the *unpopular basis* of peace and economy.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

ANSON DART,

Late Superintendent.

ROOMS OF THE CAL. ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES,

SAN FRANCISCO, *December 4th*, 1860.

To his Excellency ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President of the United States.

SIR: Having been personally acquainted for *many* years with Dr. Elijah White, (the applicant for Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Northern District of this State,) I take great pleasure in recommending him as a person fitted by experience and nature for the position he seeks. He served the Government under President Tyler's administration in Oregon, as Indian agent and was re-appointed, notwithstanding political differences, by President Polk. He bears letters of high order from the Hon. John C. Spencer and others belonging to the Cabinet created by the lamented President Harrison. He gave great satisfaction to the residents of what was then Oregon country. His gentle, yet *firm* demeanor in those early, turbulent, and unpropitious times, was productive of much good, and probably saved the lives of many citizens. It is a note-worthy fact, that in *less* than six months after he resigned the post, Dr. Marcus Whitman and his family were barbarously murdered by the Indians. I will also add, that Dr. White has long been a member and is now a corresponding member of our Academy of Natural Sciences, in the advancement of which he feels a warm interest. I am glad that the officials of our own Government, like those of England, Germany, and France, are ready to further a knowledge of the Arts and Sciences, by a friendly co-operation with the students of their various institutions of learning.

I am sir,

Yours with much respect,

HIRAM G. BLOOMER,

Curator of Botany and Treasurer of

Academy of Natural Sciences.

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, JANUARY 16TH, 1861.

To ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President of the United States.

The undersigned, Republican members of the Legislature of California, take pleasure in recommending to your favorable consideration, Dr. Elijah White of San Francisco, who is known to us as an ardent and devoted advocate of the principles of

the Republican party, and a citizen of undoubted integrity of character.

CALEB BURBANK,
J. McM. SHAFTER,
T. G. PHELPS,
JOHN W. CHERRY,
A. L. BLOMS,
H. W. BRIGGS,
S. S. TILTON,
O. F. WILLEY,
ALVAN F. CANETY,
FRED. J. E. SETTEL
W. D. HANIMAN,
C. CROEKER,
J. A. BANKS,
A. W. BLAIR,
F. F. FAGO,
J. H. MORGAN,
E. H HEACOCK, *Senator, Sacramento.*
JNO. M. AVERY,
CHARLES B. PORTER,
ALEX. CAMPBELL,
E. W. COUNCILMAN,
E. F. SPENCE, *Nevada,*
CHARLES FORD,
ROBERT CLARK.

REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTE ROOMS,
SAN FRANCISCO, *Dec.*, 1860.

To the HON ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
President elect of the United States.

DEAR SIR: We desire to testify that Dr. Elijah White has been for a number of years an ardent and active Republican, and we believe he would honestly and assiduously perform the duties of any office which you might see fit to confer upon him.

We remain, &c.,
Your obedient servants,
B. W. HATHAWAY,
HENRY BAKER,
JOHN SATTERLEE,
GILBERT A. GRANT.

NOVEMBER 23d, 1860.

To His Excellency, ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
President of United States.

SIR: I have been requested by Dr. E. White, an old resident of this city, to place in writing my opinion as to his fitness for the position of Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

I have no hesitation in stating that Dr. White is particularly well qualified to fill that position with credit to the Republican party. His sound judgment, the goodness of heart and charity which he has manifested so clearly during his long residence ten years) among us, as well as the persecution he has already endured for his devotion to Republican principles, seem to me as strong recommendations for the position. He has also an enlarged

experience, acquired during a service of five years in the Indian Department some time ago.

Respectfully yours,

MARTIN J. BURKE,

Chief of Police of City and County, San Francisco, California.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 14TH, 1861.

DOCT. E. WHITE,

DEAR SIR: I understand you are an applicant for Superintendent of Indian Affairs for California, and I deem it an act of justice, as it is a pleasure, to say that, during the four years you held the position of sub-agent of Indian affairs in Oregon, the Indians were really peaceable, and the most friendly relations existed between them and the white settlers; and from my personal knowledge I am satisfied that your policy was just toward the Indians and economical to the Government.

Very respectfully yours,

M. CRAWFORD, *Oregon.*

Mr. Crawford during the last session was a member of the Oregon Legislature.

E. WHITE.

WASHINGTON, MAY 6, 1861.

To His Excellency ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

President of the United States,

DEAR SIR: Doctor Elijah White, now of California, was previous to the year 1836, a resident of Havana, New York. In the year 1836, he went to the Columbia river, now in the State of Oregon, as Physician to the Missions, and at a time when that region of country was almost unknown. Some years subsequently he returned, was appointed Indian sub-agent, and took across the mountains over a hundred emigrants and made the first general settlement of Americans on the Pacific coast.

During several years of personal acquaintance with Dr. White, I knew him to be an honorable high minded gentleman, possessing great energy of character, active benevolence, and strict moral integrity.

Believing him to be well qualified, from long and intimate acquaintance with the various Indian tribes west of the Rocky Mountains, to discharge with ability any duty in that connection, I would bespeak for him a favorable consideration at your hands.

Very respectfully,

N. CORYELL,

HAVANA, N. Y., JUNE 10TH, 1861.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,

Secretary of State.

SIR: I have been acquainted with Dr. Elijah White, for many years, he was formerly a resident of our village, but left here near twenty years since, to discharge the duties of an agency on the Pacific coast, since which he has only been here occasionally.

I have ever regarded the Doctor a highly honorable man, of sound morality, and worthy of confidence.

Very respectfully, &c.,

CHARLES COOK,

Late Canal Commissioner of New York.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, *Nov. 25th*, 1848.

HON. J. M. PORTER,

Secretary of War.

I submit a report (104) from the sub-agent west of the Rocky Mountains, received on 9th August last. It furnishes some deeply interesting and curious details respecting certain of the Indian tribes in that remote part of our territories. The Nes Perces are represented to be "more noble, industrious, sensible, and better disposed towards the whites," than the others. Their conduct on the occasion of an important meeting between Dr. White and their leading men impresses one most agreeably. The school established for their benefit is very numerously attended, while it is gratifying to learn that this is not the only establishment for Indian instruction which has been made and conducted with success.

There will also be found in this paper some particulars as to the soil, watercourses, &c., of the Territory of Oregon, which may be interesting at this time, when public attention is so much directed to the region beyond the Rocky Mountains.

Respectfully submitted,

T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD,

T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD, ESQ.,

Commissioner Indian Affairs.

OREGON, APRIL 1, 1843.

SIR: On my arrival, I had the honor and happiness of addressing you a brief communication, giving information of my safe arrival, and that of our numerous party, to these distant shores.

At that time it was confidently expected a more direct, certain and expeditious method would be presented to address you in a few weeks; but that failing, none has offered till now.

I think I mentioned the kind and hospitable manner we were received and entertained on the way by the gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Company, and the cordial and most handsome reception I met with at Fort Vancouver, from Governor McLaughlin, and his worthy associate chief factor, James Douglass, Esq.; my appointment giving pleasure, rather than pain—a satisfactory assurance that these worthy gentlemen intend eventually to settle in this country, and prefer American to English jurisdiction.

On my arrival in the colony, sixty miles south of Vancouver, being in advance of the party, and coming unexpectedly to the citizens, bearing the intelligence of the arrival of so large a reinforcement, and giving assurance of the good intentions of our government, the excitement was general, and two days after we had the largest and happiest public meeting ever convened in this infant colony.

I found the colony in peace and health, and rapidly increasing in numbers, having more than doubled in population during the last two years. English, French, and half breeds, seem, equally with our own people, attached to the American cause; hence the bill of Mr. Linn, profferring a section of land to every white man of the territory, has the double advantage of being popular and useful, increasing such attachment, and manifestly acting as a strong incentive to all, of whatever nation or party, to settle in this country.

My arrival was in good time, and probably saved much evil. I had but a short season of rest after so long, tedious, and toilsome a journey, before information reached me of the improper conduct of the upper country Indians towards the missionaries sent by the American board of commissioners, accompanied with a passport, and a desire for my interposition in their behalf at once.

I allude to the only three tribes from which much is to be hoped, or any thing to be feared, in this part of Oregon. These are the Wallawallas, Keyuse, and Nez Perces, inhabiting a district of country on the Columbia and its tributaries, commencing two hundred and forty miles from its mouth, and stretching to four hundred and eighty miles into the interior. The Wallawallas, most contiguous to the colony, number some three thousand, including the entire population. They are in general poor, indolent, sordid, and avaricious; and what few have property, in horses and herds, are proud, haughty, and insolent. The Keyuse, next easterly, are less numerous, but more formidable, being brave, active, tempestuous, and warlike. Their country is well watered, gently undulating, extremely healthy, and admirably adapted to grazing, as Dr. Marcus Whitman may have informed you, who resides in their midst. They are comparatively rich in herds, independent in manner, and not unfrequently boisterous, saucy, and trouble-

some, in language and behavior. The Nez Perces, still further in the interior, number something less than three thousand; they inhabit a beautiful grazing district, not surpassed by any I have seen for verdure, water privileges, climate or health. This tribe form, to some extent, an honorable exception to the general Indian character, being more noble, industrious, sensible, and better disposed towards the whites, and their improvements in the arts and sciences; and, though as brave as Cæsar, the whites have nothing to dread at their hands, in case of their dealiug out to them what they conceive to be right and equitable. Of late, these three tribes have become strongly united by reason of much intermarriage. For the last twenty years they have been generally well disposed towards the whites; but at the time Captain Bonneville visited this district of country, he dealt more profusely in presents, and paid a higher price for furs, than Mr. Pambro, one of the traders of the Hudson Bay Company, established at Wallawalla, who had long dealt with them, and was previously a general favorite. On Mr. Bonneville's leaving, the chiefs assembled at the fort, and insisted on a change of the tariff in their favor. Pambro refusing, they seized him, stamped violently upon his breast, beat him severely, and retained him prisoner, in rather unenviable circumstanses, till they gained, to a considerable extent, their object. Since that time they have been more consequential in feeling, and shown less deference and respect to the whites. On the arrival of missionaries among them, they have never failed to make, at first, a most favorable inpression, which has, in most instances, unfortunately, led to too near an approach to familiarity, operating alike prejudicial to both parties. The Rev. Messrs. Lee and Parker, who made each but a short stay among them, left with like favorable impressions. Their successors, Spalding, Whitman, Gray, and ladies, with others who remained among them, were at last driven to the conclusion that Indians as much resembled each other in character as in complexion. These worthy people, not well versed in Indian character, and anxious to accomplish a great deal in a short time, resorted to various expedients to induce them to leave their wandering, migratory habits, and settle down contiguous to them in herding and agricultural pursuits, in order to be able to send their numerous and healthy children to school. In these efforts they were zealous and persevering, holding out various inducements as so many stimulants to action, most of which would have operated well in civilized life, but generally failing with these Indians; and whatever was promised conditionally, whether the condition was met or otherwise, there was no reprieve—the promised articles must come, and sometimes under circumstances sufficiently trying, had these missionaries been less devoted, to have driven them from their post forever.

The Indians having gained one and another victory, became more and more insolent, till at last, some time previously to my arrival, they were not only obtrusive and exceedingly annoying about and in the missionaries' houses, but seized one of the clergymen in his own house—without a shadow of provocation, further than that of treating a better neighboring chief with more respect than they—and insulted him most shamefully; there being no other white person within fifty miles, save his sick and delicate lady. Soon after they commenced on Dr. Whitman; pulled his ears and hair, and threw off his hat three times in the mud at his feet. A short time after, the chiefs assembled, broke into the house, violently assailed his person with war clubs, and with an axe broke down the door leading to his own private apartment. It is generally thought, and possibly with truth, that, on this occasion, Dr. W. would have been killed, had not a party of white men arrived just at this moment. Never was such an outrage or insult more undeserving. He had built, for the express purpose of Indian accommodation, a house of the same materials, and finished in like manner with his own, of respectable size, and joined to his, and at all times, night and day, accessible. In addition to this, they were admitted to every room of his house but one. This being closed had like to have cost him his life. He had hardly left for the states last fall, when, shocking to relate, at the hour of midnight, a large Indian chief managed to get into the house, came to the door of Mrs. Whitman's bedchamber, and had succeeded in getting it partly open before she reached it. A white man, sleeping in an adjoining apartment, saved her from violence and ruin. The villian escaped. There was but one thing wrong in this matter on the part of Dr. W.; and that was a great error—leaving his excellent lady thus unprotected in the midst of savages. A few days after this they burned down the mission mill on his premises, with all its appendages and considerable grain, damaging them not less than twelve or fifteen hundred dollars. About the same time Mrs. Spaulding was grossly insulted in her own house, and ordered out of it in the absence of her husband. Information reached him of an Indian having stolen his horse near the same time, he hastened to the spot to secure the animal; the rougue had crossed the river; but, immediately returning, he presented his loaded gun, cocked, at the breast of Mr. Spalding, abused and menaced as far as possible without shooting him.

In addition to this, some of our own party were robbed openly of considerable property, and some twelve horses were stolen by night. All this information, coming near the same time, was peculiarly embarassing, especially as my instructions would not allow me to exceed, for office, interpreter, and every other purpose, one thousand two hundred and fifty dollars per annum. On the

other hand, their passport signed by the Secretary of War made it my imperative duty to protect them in their persons at least from outrage. I did not long hesitate, but called on Thomas McKay, long in the employment of the Hudson's Bay Company as explorer and leader of parties, who, from his frank, generous disposition, together with his universal success in Indian warfare, has obtained an extensive influence over the aborigines of this country, and placing the facts before him, he at once consented to accompany me to this scene of discord and contention. We took but six men with us, armed in the best manner, a sufficient number to command respect and secure the object of our undertaking—McKay assuring me, from his familiar acquaintance with these Indians, and their thorough knowledge of the use of arms, that if hostile intentions were entertained, it would require a larger party than we could raise in this country to subdue them. Obtaining Cornelius Rogers and Batteus Dorion, as interpreters, we set out on the 15th of November—as McKay justly denominated it—our voyage of misery, having a journey, by water and land, of not less than nine hundred and fifty miles, principally over open plains, covered with snow, and several times under the necessity of spending the night without wood or fire, other than what was made by a small growth of wild sage, hardly sufficient to boil the tea-kettle. The gentlemen, as we called at Fort Vancouver, did every thing in their power to make the journey comfortable, but evidently felt anxious concerning our safety. We reached the Dalles, some two hundred and twenty miles from the Pacific, on the 24th having been detained by wind, spent several days with the Methodist mission families, who welcomed us joyfully, and made our stay agreeable and refreshing. Mrs. Dr. Whitman was here, having found it improper and unsafe to remain where she had been so lately grossly insulted. Her noble and intellectual mind and spirit were much depressed, and her health suffering; but still entertaining for the people or Indians of her charge the feelings of a mother towards ungrateful children; our visit encouraged her. We procured horses and travelled by land to Wallawalla, one hundred and forty miles above, reaching the Hudson's Bay establishment on the 30th.

Mr. McKinley, the gentleman in charge, to whom the missionaries are indebted for many kind offices in this isolated portion of earth, resolved to make it a common cause, and stand or fall with us. We reached Waiilatpu, the station of Dr. Whitman, the day following, and were shocked and pained at beholding the sad work of savage destruction upon this hitherto neat and commodious little establishment. The Indians in the vicinity were few and shy. I thought best to treat them with reserve, but made an appointment to meet the chiefs and tribe on my return. Left the

day following for the station of Mr. Spaulding among the Nez-perces, some one hundred and twenty or one hundred and thirty miles from Waiilaptu; reached it on the third of December, after a rather pleasant journey over a most verdent and delightful grazing district, well watered, but badly timbered. Having sent a private despatch in advance they had conveyed the intelligence to the Indians, many of whom were collected. The chiefs met us with civility, gravity and dignified reserve, but the missionaries with joyful countenances and glad hearts.

Seldom was a visit of an Indian agent more desired nor could one be more necessary and proper. As they were collecting, we had no meeting for eight-and-forty hours; in the mean time, through my able interpreter and McKay, I managed to secure confidence and prepare the way to a good understanding; visited and prescribed for their sick, made a short call at each of their chief's lodges, spent a season in school, hearing them read, spell, and sing; at the same time examining their printing and writing, and can hardly avoid here saying I was happily surprised and greatly interested at seeing such numbers so far advanced and so eagerly pursuing after knowledge. The next day I visited their little plantations, rude to be sure, but successfully carried on, so far as raising the necessaries of life were concerned; and it was most gratifying to witness their fondness and care for their little herds, pigs, poultry, etc. The hour arriving for the public interview, I was ushered into the presence of the assembled chiefs, to the number of twenty-two, with some lesser dignitaries, and a large number of the common people. The gravity, fixed attention, and decorum, of these sons of the forest, was calculated to make for them a most favorable impression. I stated explicitly, but briefly as possible, the design of our great chief in sending me to this country, and the present object of my visit; assured them of the kind intentions of our government, and the sad consequences that would ensue to any white man, from this time, who should invade their rights, by stealing, murder, selling them damaged for good articles, or alcohol, of which they are not fond. Without threatening, I gave them to understand how highly Mr. and Mrs. Spalding were prized by the numerous whites, and with what pleasure the great chief gave them a passport to encourage them to come here to teach them what they were now so diligently employed in obtaining, in order that they and their children might become good, wise and happy. After me, Mr. McKinley, the gentleman in charge of the Hudson's Bay establishment at Wallawalla, spoke concisely, but very properly; alluded to his residence of some years, and of the good understanding that had generally existed between them, and of the happiness that he felt that one of his brothers had come to stand and judge impartially between him,

them, and whites and Indians in general; declared openly and frankly, that Boston, King George, and French, were all of one heart in this matter, as they, the Keyuse and Wallawallas should be; flattered them delicately in view of their—to him—unexpected advancement in the arts and sciences, and resumed his seat, having made a most favorable impression. Next followed Mr. Rogers, the interpreter, who, years before, had been employed successfully as linguist in this section of the country by the American board of commissioners, and was ever a general favorite with the people.

He adverted sensibly and touchingly to past difficulties between whites and Indians east of the mountains, and the sad consequences to every tribe who had resisted honorable measures proposed by the more numerous whites; and having, as he hoped, secured their confidence in my favor, exhorted them feelingly to adopt such measures as should be thought proper for their benefit.

Next, and lastly, arose Mr. McKay, and remarked with a manner peculiar to himself, and evidently with some emotion: I appear among you as one arisen from the long sleep of death. You know of the violent death of my father on board the ship Tonquin, who was one of the partners of the Astor company; I was but a youth; since which time, till the last five years, I have been a wanderer through these wilds; none of you, or any Indians of this country, having travelled so constantly or extensively as I have, and yet I saw you or your fathers once or more annually. I have mingled with you in bloody wars and profound peace; I have stood in your midst surrounded by plenty, and suffered with you in seasons of scarcity; we have had our days of wild and joyous sports, and nights of watching and deep concern, till I vanished from among men, left the Hudson's Bay company, silently retired to my plantation, and there confined myself. There I was, still, silent, and as one dead; the voice of my brother, at last, aroused me; I spoke and looked; I mounted my horse—am here. I am glad it is so. I come at the call of the great chief, the chief of all the whites in the country, as well as the Indians, the son of the mighty chief, whose children are more numerous than the stars in the heavens or the leaves of the forest. Will you hear, and be advised? You will. Your wonderful improvements in the arts and sciences prove you are not fools. Surely you will hear; but if disposed to close your ears and stop them, they will be torn open wide, and you will be made to hear. This speech from Mr. McKay, whose mother is a native, though the wife of Gov. McLaughlin, had a singularly happy influence, and opened the way for expression on the other side, from which there had not hitherto been a sentence uttered. First arose Five-Crows, a wealthy chief of forty-five, neatly attired in English costume. He stepped gravely but modestly

forward to the table, remarking: It does not become me to speak first; I am but a youth, as yet, when compared to many of these my fathers; but my feelings urge me to arise and say what I am about to utter in a very few words. I am glad the chief has come I have listened to what has been said; have great hopes that brighter days are before us, because I see all the whites are united in this matter; we have much wanted some thing; hardly knew what; been groping and feeling for it in confusion and darkness. Here it is. Do we see it, and shall we accept?

Soon the Bloody Chief arose—not less than ninety years old—and said: I speak to day, perhaps to-morrow I die. I am the oldest chief of the tribe; was the high chief when your great brothers, Lewis and Clarke, visited this country; they visited me, and honored me with their friendship and counsel. I showed them my numerous wounds received in bloody battle with the Snakes; they told me it was not good, it was better to be at peace; gave me a flag of truce; I held it up high; we met and talked, but never fought again. Clarke pointed to this day, to you and this occasion; we have long waited in expectation; sent three of our sons to Red river school to prepare for it; two of them sleep with their fathers; the other is here, and can be ears, mouth, and pen for us. I can say no more; I am quickly tired; my voice and limbs tremble. I am glad I live to see you and this day, but I shall soon be still and quiet in death.

The speech was affecting. Six more spoke, and the meeting adjourned three hours. Met at the hour appointed. All the chiefs and principal men being present, stated delicately the embarrassed relation existing between whites and Indians in this upper country, by reason of a want of proper organization, or the chief's authority not being properly regarded; alluded to some cases of improprieties of young men, not sanctioned by the chiefs and old men; and where the chiefs had been in the wrong, hoped it had principally arisen from imperfectly understanding each other's language or some other excusable cause, especially so far as they were concerned. Advised them, as they were now to some extent prepared, to choose one high chief of the tribe, and acknowledge him as such by universal consent; all the other subordinate chiefs being of equal power, and so many helps to carry out all his lawful requirements, which they were at once to have in writing, in their own language, to regulate their intercourse with whites, and in most cases with themselves. I advised that each chief have five men as a body guard, to execute all their lawful commands. They desired to hear the laws. I proposed them clause by clause, leaving them as free to reject as to accept. They were greatly pleased with all proposed, but wished a heavier penalty to some, and suggested the dog law, which was annexed. We then left them to choose

the high chief, assuring them if they did this unanimously by the following day at ten, we would all dine together with the chief on a fat ox at three, himself and myself at the head of the table; this pleased them well, and they set about it in good cheer and high hopes; but this was a new and delicate task, and they soon saw and felt it; however all agreed that I must make the selection, and so reported two hours after we left the council. Assuring them this would not answer; that they must select their own chief, they seemed somewhat puzzled, and wished to know if it would be proper to counsel with Messrs. McKay and Rogers. On telling them that it was not improper, they felt a little relieved, and worked poor Rogers and McKay severely for many hours; but altogether at length figured it out, and in great good humor, so reported at ten, appointing Ellis high chief. He is the one alluded to by the Bloody Chief, a sensible man of thirty-two, reading, speaking, and writing the English language tolerably well; has a fine small plantation, a few sheep, some neat stock, and no less than eleven hundred head of horses. Then came on the feasting; our ox was fat, and cooked and served up in a manner reminding one of the days of yore; we ate beef, corn, and peas to our fill, and in good cheer took the pipe, when Rev. Mr. Spalding, Messrs. McKinley, Rogers, and McKay, wished a song from our boatmen; it was no sooner given than returned by the Indians, and repeated again, again, and again, in high cheer. I thought it a good time, and required all having any claim to bring, or grievances to allege, against Mr. Spalding, to meet me and the high chief at evening in the council room, and requested Mr. Spalding to do the same on the part of the Indians. We met at six, and ended at eleven, having accomplished, in the happiest manner, much anxious business. Being to well fed to be irritable, or disposed to quarrel, both parties were frank and open, seeming anxious only to learn our opinion upon plain undisguised matters of fact, many of the difficulties having arisen from an honest difference of sentiment respecting certain measures.

Ellis, the chief, really conducted himself throughout in a manner creditable to his head and heart, was quite as correct in his conclusions and firm in his decisions as could have been expected. The next day we had our last meeting, and one full of interest, in which they proposed to me many grave and proper questions; and, as it was manifestly desired, I advised them in many matters, especially in reference to begging or even receiving presents, without, in some way, returning an equivalent; pointed out in strong language who beggars are among the whites, and how regarded; and commended them for not once troubling me, during my stay, with this disgusting practice; and as a token of respect, now, at the close of our long and happy meeting, they would please accept, in the name of my great chief, a present of fifty garden hoes, not for

those in authority, or those that had no need of them, but for the chiefs and Mr. Spalding to distribute among their industrious poor. I likewise, as they were very needy, proposed and ordered them some medicines, to be distributed as they should from time to time be required. This being done, I exhorted them to be in obedience to their chiefs, highly approving the choice they had made, assuring them, as he and the other chiefs were responsible to me for their good behaivor, I should feel it my duty to see them sustained in all lawful measures to promote peace and order. I then turned, and with good effect desired all the chiefs to look uppon the congregation as their own children, and then pointed to Mr. Spalding and lady, and told the chiefs, and all present, to look upon them as their father and mother, and treat them in all respects as such; and should they happen to differ in sentiment respecting any matter during my absence, be cautious not to differ in feeling, but leave it till I should again return, when the chief and myself would rectify it. Thus closed this mutually happy and interesting meeting, and, mounting our horses for home, Mr. Spalding and the chiefs accompanied me for some four or five miles, when we took leave of them in the pleasantest manner, not a single circumstance having occurred to mar our peace or shake each other's confidence.

I shall here introduce a note, previously prepared giving some further information respecting this tribe, and append a copy of their laws. The Nez Perces have one governor or principal chief, twelve subordinate chiefs of equal power, being the heads of the different villages or clans, with their five officers to execute all their lawful orders, which law they have printed in their own language, and read understandingly. The chiefs are held responsible to the whites for the good behavior of the tribe. They are a happy and orderly people, forming an honorable exception to the general Indian character, being more industrious, cleanly, sensible, dignified, and virtuous.

This organization was effected last fall, and operates well, and with them, it is to be hoped, will succeed. A few days since Governor McLaughlin favored me with a note addressed to him from the Rev. H. H. Spalding, missionary to this tribe, stating as follows:

"The Indians in this vicinity are remarkably quiet this winter, and are highly pleased with the laws recommended br Dr. White, which were unanimously adopted by the chiefs and people in council assembled. The visit of Dr. White and assistants to this upper country will evidently prove an incalculable blessing to this people. The school now numbers two hundred and twenty-four in daily attendance, embracing most of the chiefs and principal men of the nation."

LAWS OF THE NEZ PERCES.

ART. 1. Whoever wilfully takes life shall be hung.

ART. 2. Whoever burns a dwelling house shall be hung.

ART. 3. Whoever burns an outbuilding shall be imprisoned six months, receive fifty lashes, and pay all damages.

ART. 5. If any one enter a dwelling, without permission of the occupant, the chiefs shall punish him as they think proper.

ART. 6. If any one steal he shall pay back two fold; and if it be the value of a beaver skin or less, he shall receive twenty-five lashes; and if the value is over a beaver skin he shall pay back two-fold, and receive fifty lashes.

ART. 7. If any one take a horse, and ride it, without permission, or take any article, and use it, without liberty, he shall pay for the use of it, and receive from twenty to fifty lashes, as the chief shall direct.

ART. 8. If any one enter a field, and injure the crops, or throw down the fence, so that cattle or horses go in and do damage, he shall pay all damages, and receive twenty-five lashes for every offence.

ART. 9. Those only may keep dogs who travel or live among the game; if a dog kill a lamb, calf, or any domestic animal, the owner shall pay the damage, and kill the dog.

ART. 10. If an Indian raise a gun or other weapou against a white man, it shall be reported to the chiefs, and they shall punish him. If a white person do the same to an Indian, it shall be reported to Dr. White, and he shall redress it.

ART. 11. If an Indian break these laws, he shall be punished by his chiefs; if a white man break them, he shall be reported to the agent, and be punished at his instance.

After a severe journey of some four days, through the inclemency of the weather, we reached Waiilaptu, Dr. Whitman's station, where we had many most unpleasant matters to settle with the Keyuse tribe—such as personal abuse to Dr. Whitman and lady burning the mill, &c., &c. Several but not all of the chiefs, were present. Learning what the Nez Perces had done, gave them great concern and anxiety. Touiti, the high chief, and Feathercap, were there, with some few more dignitaries, but manifestly uneasy, being shy and cautious. I thought best, under the circumstances to be quiet, distant, and reserved, and let them commence the conversation with my worthy and faithful friends, Rogers and McKay—both conducting with characteristic firmness and candor. They had not proceeded far before Feathercap, so far as we know, for the first time in life, commenced weeping, and wished to see me; said his heart was sick, and he could not live long as he now felt. Tuiti, who was no way implicated personally in the difficulties, and

a correct man, continued for some time firm and steady to his purpose; said the whites were much more to blame than the Indians; that three-fourths of them, though they taught the purest doctrines, practiced the greatest abominations—alluding to the base conduct of many in the Rocky Mountains, when they met them on their buffalo hunts during the summer season, and witness the great extravagances. They were shown the inapplicability of such instances to the present cases of difficulty. He, too, at last was much subdued; whished to see me; was admitted; made a sensible speech in his own favor; said he was constituted eight years before high chief, entered upon its duties with spirit and courage, determined to reduce his people to order. He flogged the young men, and reproved the middle aged, till, having none to sustain him, his popularity had so declined that, except in seasons of difficulty, brought about by their improprieties, I am left alone to say my prayers, and go to bed, to weep over the follies and wickedness of my people. Here his voice trembled, and he wept freely—acknowledged his opinion that the mill was burnt purposely by some disaffected person towards Dr. Whitman. I spoke kindly and somewhat encouragingly to these chiefs; assured them that the guilty only were to be regarded as such; and that candor was commendable, and would be honored by all the good; assured them I credited all they said, and deplored the state of their nation, which was in perfect anarchy and confusion; told them I could say but little to them now, as their chiefs were mostly abroad; but must say that the shocking conduct of one of the chiefs towards Mrs. Whitman greatly afflicted me; and that, with the destruction of the mill, and their abominable conduct toward Dr. Whitman, if not speedily settled, would lead to the worst of consequences to their tribe. I made an engagement to meet them and all the tribe the ensuing new moon of April, to adjust differences, and come to a better understanding, they earnestly wishing to adopt the same laws as the Nez Perces had. We should probably have accomplished a satisfactory settlement, had not several of the influental chiefs been too far away to get information of the meeting. We reached Wascopum on the 25th December, the Indians being in great excitement, having different views and impressions respecting the nature of the approaching visit. We spent four days with them, holding meetings daily, instructing them in the nature of government, civil relations, domestic duties, &c. &c. Succeeded, in like happy manner, with them as the Nez Perces, they unanimously adopting the same code of laws.

Late information from one of the missionaries, you will see in the following note from Mr. H. B. Brewer:

"The Indians of this place intend to carry out the regulations you left them to the letter; they have been quite engaged in cut-

ting logs for houses, and live in expectation of better dwellings by and by. For the least trangession of the laws they are punished by their chiefs immediately. The clean face of some, and the tidy dresses of others, show the good effects of your visit."

And here allow me to say, except at Wascopum, the missionaries of this upper country are too few in number at their respective stations, and in too defenceless a state for their own safety, or the best good of the Indians, the latter taking advantage of these circumstances, to the no small annoyance, and, in some instances, greatly endangering the personal safety of the former. You will see its bearings upon this infant colony, and doubtless give such information or instructions to the American board of commissioners or myself as will cause a correction of this evil. It has already occasioned some difficulty and much cost. I have insisted upon an increase of numbers at Mr. Spalding's mission, which has accordingly been reinforced by Mr. Littlejohn and lady, rendering that station measurably secure; but not so at Waiilaptu, or some of the Catholic missions, where some of them lost a considerable amount in herds during last winter, and, I am told, were obliged to abandon their posts, their lives being endangered. This was in the interior, near the Blackfeet country.

You will observe, from the reports of the different missions, which, so far as I am otherwise informed, are correct, that they are doing some positive good in the country, not only by diffusing the light of science abroad among us, but also by giving employment to many, and, by their drafts upon the different boards and others, creating a circulating medium in this country; but, though they make comparatively slow progress in the way of reform among the aborigines of this country, their pious and correct example has a most restraining influence upon both whites and Indians, and in this way they prevent much evil.

They have in successful operation six schools. Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Spalding—whose zeal and untiring industry for the people of their charge entitle them to our best considerations—have a school of some two hundred and twenty-four in constant attendance—most successfully carried forward, which gives promise of great usefulness to both sexes and all ages. Rev. Messrs. Walker and Eells I have not been at leisure to visit, but learn they have a small school in operation. The one at Waiilaptu, Dr. Whitman's station, is now recommenced, with promise of usefulness.

The Rev. Mr. Blanchette and associates, though zealous Catholics, are peaceable, industrious, indefatigable, and successful in promoting religious knowledge among the Canadian population and aborigines of this country. Their enterprise in the erection of mills and other public works is very commendable, and the general industry, good order, and correct habits of that portion of

the population under their charge is sufficient proof that their influence over their people has been exerted for good. The Rev. Mr. Lee and associates, aside from their well conducted operations upon the Columbia, and a school of some thirty scholars successfully carried forward upon the Willamette, are doing but little for the Indians; nor could greater efforts produce much good among the scattered remnants of the broken tribes of this lower district, who are fast disappearing before the ravages of the most loathsome diseases. Their principle hopes of success in this country are among the whites, where they are endeavoring to lay deep and broad the foundations of science. The literary institution referred to by Mr. Lee is situated upon a beautiful rising ground—a healthy and eligible location. Could a donation of five thousand dollars be bestowed upon the institution, it would greatly encourage its friends. The donations made by individuals of this country have been most liberal, several giving one-third of all they possessed. There is a small school established at Falatine plains, by Rev. Mr. Clark and lady. There is also a school at the Catholic mission, upon the Willamette, and also one at their station upon the Cowlitz. For further information, I will refer you to the reports made, at my request, by the several missions, and accompanying these despatches.

The country upon the Columbia and its tributaries, as far as the Dalles, a distance of two hundred and twenty miles from its mouth, is well timbered; above the Dalles timber is scarce, large districts being destitute, except here and there a small quantity growing upon the streams of water. The country between the Columbia and California is also timbered, and of a fine quality. The district contiguous to the Columbia, is, generally, too rough and mountainous ever to become an agricultural country; but south of the Columbia, in the valley of the Willamette, the soil is admirably adapted to purposes of agriculture, being generally undulating prairies, surrounded by timbered land, and intersected by numerous small streams. This is the character of the country, generally towards California. Mr. Spalding's report gives a general statement of the character of the country bordering upon the Columbia above the Dalles. The Columbia, the principal river of this region, is somewhat difficult to enter, owing to the want of proper charts, &c. The ships of the Hudson's Bay Company, are, however, in the constant habit of ascending it as far as Vancouver fort. The Willamette, a tributary of the Columbia, can be ascended at favorable seasons of the year by vessels of two hundred tons, to within a few miles of the falls.

The Umqua river has a small harbor, but cannot be ascended a great distance by vessels. The Nesqually, as you have been doubtless informed by Commander Wilkes, about one hundred

and forty miles north of the Columbia, forms a fine harbor; the river, however, not being navigable to a great distance by large vessels.

Stone for building purposes is abundant on the banks of the Columbia, stretching far into the interior. There is some granite, but basaltic rock only is very plentiful upon the Willamette, to some distance above the falls. Limestone has been found in some quantities in the neighborhood of the mouth of the Columbia, although I have not as yet had time to examine it. Lime has never been made in this country, except in small quantities, by burning the choral obtained from the Sandwich islands. Bricks have been made to some extent, and there are now two persons in the country who understand making them. There are several mechanics in the colony, but, for want of tools and materials, they do not attempt to carry on their business. There are nine carpenters and two stone masons in the settlement. There are settlements established upon the Willamette sixty-five miles from its mouth: at Falatine plains, twelve miles south of the Columbia, and twenty west of the Willamette falls at Clatsop plains six miles south of the Columbia, at the falls of the Willamette, a population of seventy, engaged in building storehouses, mills, &c. Here is a water power of very great extent. The river here takes a perpendicular descent of thirty-eight feet, presenting as extensive and advantageous sites for mills and factories as any where exist. At the Clackamus, a small stream falling into the Willamette two miles below the falls, there is a population of twenty persons. This settlement commenced last fall; it is seven miles from the falls by land, and upon a pleasant and somewhat extensive prairie.

At the Cowlitz, a somewhat rapid river, falling into the Columbia from the north, about fifty miles from its mouth, there is a small settlement of sixty-four persons, enjoying the benefits of the catholic ministry. The face of the country upon the Cowlitz is generally level, the soil thin, and impregnated with magnesia, being less fertile than that of the Willamette valley. Your inquiry respecting the comparison between Oregon, from the Dalles to the Pacific—some two hundred and twenty miles—and the New England States, I am now somewhat better prepared to answer, having visited more of this country, and likewise most of the New England States. As a whole, in point of soil, I think it much better, having also greatly the advantage in climate, and vastly superior as a grazing country, the inhabitants not being obliged to winter their stock.

I must close by praying that measures may be speedily entered into to take possession of this country, if such steps have not already been taken. I left home before the close of the session of

Congress, and by reason do not know what disposition was made of Mr. Linn's bill. As a reason for thus praying, I would here say, the time was when the gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Company and the missions, wielded the entire influence over this small population; but as they have been reinforced latterly from whale ships, the Rocky Mountains and the south-western states, these hitherto salutary restraints and influences are giving way and being measurably lost.

At present I have considerable influence, but cannot long expect to retain it, especially in the faithful discharge of my duty. As a reason for coming to such a conclusion, I had but just arrived from the interior when I received an urgent call to visit the mouth of the Columbia. I left at once, in company with Nathaniel Crocker, Esq., Mr. Rogers, my interpreter, his lady, and her young sister—the females going only to the falls—with a crew of Indians, on our ill-fated expedition. We reached the falls at sunset, February 1, and by reason of the water being higher than usual, in passing around a jutting or projecting rock, the canoe was thrown up suddenly against a log constituting a landing, at which instant I stepped off, and in a moment the slender craft was swept away, with all its precious cargo, over the perpendicular falls of thirty-eight feet, three rods below. The shock was dreadful to this infant colony, and the loss was irreparable; Mr. Rogers being more important to me than any one in the country; nor was there a more respectable or useful man west of the mountains. Nathaniel Crocker came in with me last fall from Tompkins county; he was much pleased with the country and its prospects, and the citizens were rejoiced at the arrival of such a man in the territory; he was every way capacitated for usefulness. None of the bodies of the four whites or two Indians have been as yet found. For further particulars see letter to Mrs. White.*

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* "On the First day of February, Mr. Crocker, Mr. Rogers and his lady, who was once Satira Leslie, and her youngest sister, with myself and four Indians, were on our way to Astoria. We were passing down by a rock, to reach a log to pass to the shore, the water being very high and the current strong, the canoe barely passed, giving space for me to step on the log, when it began to drive. Esquire Crocker seized the end of the paddle, which I held, and each exerted ourselves to draw it to the log a second time, but it was in vain; and in an instant, in spite of every effort of those on board, excepting the poor females the canoe was hurled over the falls, and every soul, except two poor Indians, sent into eternity. Chilled and motionless with horror, I witnessed the dreadful scene. They went down within four rods of me, Mrs. Rogers uttering a thrilling shriek as they passed over the falls. The two Indians were saved by jumping overboard, and, seemingly against impossibilities, swimming to the shore through the rapids. This horrible disaster has filled the colony with consternation and deep affliction. Oh, what a sad blow to poor Mrs. Crocker, and all his connexions. I pray God to sustain them. He had been spending the last two months at my house, and his mildness, condescension, and pleasant, agreeable manners, will never be forgotten. He was delighted with the country, and had bright hopes

* * * * * On arriving at the mouth of the Columbia, I found a sailor by the name of George Geere, who had most evidently and maliciously labored to instigate the Indians to take the life of one of the mission gentlemen, by the offer of five blankets. Complaints being made, and having no better means, I prevailed upon Governor McLaughlin to allow him to accompany their express across the mountains to the States. I would here say, as the scamp was nearly a fool, as well as a villian, I allowed him to go without sending evidence against him, on condition of his going voluntarily, and never returning.

I here likewise found a rash, venturesome character, about starting off on a trading excursion, among a somewhat numerous band of Indians, and they nowise well disposed towards the whites. As he saw and felt no danger, arguments were unavailing, and threats only prevented.

Sir, shall men be allowed to go where they please, however remote from the colony, and settle, under circumstances that not only endanger their own personal safety, but the peace and safety of the whole white population? Please give me specific instructions respecting this matter.

Though I have addressed you at some length, I should have brought more before you, and in a better manner, but for incessant labor, care, and ill health. I have eight prisoners on hand at present, for various crimes, principally stealing horses, grain, &c.; and crimes are multiplying with numbers among the whites, and with scarcity of game with the Indians.

* * * * * * * * * * *

No intelligence from abroad has reached us this winter, Mount St. Helen, one of those snow-capped volcanic mountains, some sixteen thousand feet above the level of the sea, and eighty miles north-west of Vancouver, broke out upon the 20th November last, presenting a scene the most awful and sublime imaginable, scattering smoke and ashes several hundred miles distance; and in the mean time immense quantities of melted lava were rolling down its sides, and inundating the plains below.

A petition started from this country to-day, making bitter complaints against the Hudson's Bay Company and Gov. McLaughlin.

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and cheering prospects, and was thinking of closing a contract with O'Neal for his farm and all his herds, in a few days, under most advantageous circumstances, and intended to have his family out in a short time, as he saw the advantages of this country in a clear and strong light. The hospitality and generosity of the people greatly pleased him, and on the other hand he was universally more than respected; he was gaining upon the best affections and kindest regards of the people and seemed destined to be greatly esteemed and beloved. * * * * I hope you will be at much pains to pour consolation, as far as kind attentions and soothing language go, into the heart of poor Mrs. Crocker."

Pardon this digression.

In referring to it—as a copy was denied—I shall only say, had any gentleman disconnected with the Hudson's Bay Company been at half the pains and expense to establish a claim to the Willamette falls, very few would have raised an opposition. His half bushel measure I know to be exact, according to the English imperial standard. The gentlemen of this company have been fathers and fosterers of the colony, ever encouraging peace, industry and good order, and have sustained a character for hospitality and integrity too well established to be easily shaken.

I am, sir, sincerely and most respectfully,

Your humble and obedient servant,

ELIJAH WHITE,

Sub-agent Indian Affairs, W. R. M.

DR. WHITE,

Agent of Indian Affairs west of the Rocky Mountains.

MY DEAR BROTHER—The kind letter our mission had the honor of receiving from yourself, making inquiries relative to its numbers, the character of the Indian tribes among whom its several stations are located, the country, &c., is now before me.

The questions referring to Indian character are very important, and to answer them requires a more extensive knowledge of character and habits, from personal daily observation, than the short residence of six years can afford, and more time and attention than I can possibly command, amidst the numerous cares and labors of the station. I less regret this, as the latter will receive the attention of my better informed and worthy associates of the other stations.

Concerning many of the questions, I can only give my own half-formed opinions, from limited observations, which have not extended far beyond the people of my immediate charge.

Our mission is under the patronage of the A. B. C. F. M., and was commenced in the fall of 1836, by Marcus Whitman, M. D., and myself, with our wives, and Mr. Gray. Dr. Whitman was located at Waiilaptu, among the Keyuse Indians, twenty-five miles east of Fort Wallawalla, a trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company, which stands nine miles below the junction of Lewis and Clark rivers, three hundred miles from the Pacific, and about two hundred miles from Fort Vancouver. I was located at this place, on the Clear-water or Koos-koos-ky river, twelve miles from its junction with the Lewis river, one hundred and twenty miles east of Waiilaptu. Mr. Gray left the same winter, and returned to the States. In the fall of 1838, Mr. Gray returned to this country, accompanied by Mrs. Gray, Messrs. Walker, Eells, and

Smith, and their wives, and Mr. Rogers. The next season, two new stations were commenced, one by Messrs. Walker and Eells at Cimakain, near Spokan river, among the Spokan Indians, one hundred and thirty-five miles northwest of this station, and sixty-five miles south of Fort Colville, on the Columbia river, three hundred miles above Fort Wallawalla; the second by Mr. Smith, among the Nez Perces, sixty miles above the station. There are now connected with this mission the Rev. Messrs. Walker and Eells, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Eells, at Cimakain, myself and Mrs. Spalding at this station. Dr. Whitman is now on a visit to the States, and Mrs. Whitman on a visit to the Dalles, a station of our Methodist brethren. But two natives have as yet been admitted into the church. Some ten or twelve others give pleasing evidence of having been born again.

Concerning the schools and congregation on the the Sabbath, I will speak only of this station. The congregation on the Sabbath varies at different seasons of the year, and must continue to do so until the people find a substitute in the fruits of the earth and herds for their roots, game, and fish, which necessarily requires much wandering. I am happy to say that this people are very generally turning their attention, with much apparent eagerness, to cultivating the soil, and raising hogs, cattle and sheep, and find a much more abundant and agreeable source of subsistence in the hoe than in their bows and sticks for digging roots.

For a few weeks in the fall, after the people return from their buffalo hunt, and then again in the spring, the congregation numbers from one thousand to two thousand. Through the winter, it varies from two hundred to eight hundred. From July to the 1st of October, it varies from two hundred to five hundred. The congregation, as also the school, increases every winter, as the quantity of provisions raised in the vicinity is increased.

Preparatory to schools and a permanent congregation, my earliest attention, on arriving in this country, was turned towards schools, as promising the most permanent good to the nation, in connexion with the written word of God and the preached gospel. But to speak of schools then was like speaking of the church bell, when as yet the helve is not put in the first axe by which the timber is to be felled, or the first stone laid in the dam which is to collect the water from whence the lumber in the edifice in which the bell is to give forth its sounds. Suffice it to say, through the blessings of God, we have had an increasingly large school for two winters past with comparatively favorable means of instruction.

But the steps by which we have been brought to the present elevation, if I may so speak, though we are yet exceedingly low,

began far back among the days of nothing, and little to do with.

Besides eating my own bread by the sweat of my brow, there were the wandering childred of a necessarily wandering people to collect and bring permanently within the reach of the school. Over this department of labor hung the darkest cloud, as the Indian is noted for despising manual labor; but I would acknowledge, with humble gratitude, the interposition of that hand which holds the hearts of all men.

The hoe soon brought hope, light, and satisfaction, the fruits of which are yearly becoming much more than a substitute for their former precarious game and roots, and are much preferred by the people, who are coming in from the mountains and plains, and calling for hoes, plows, and seeds, much faster than they can be furnished, and collecting around the station in increasing numbers, to cultivate their little farms, so furnishing a permanent school and congregation on the Sabbath, from four to eight months. And as the farms are enlarged, giving employment and food for the year, I trust the school and congregation will be permanent through the year. It was no small task on my time to give the first lesson on agriculture. That the first men of this nation—the first chiefs not excepted—rose up to labor when a few hoes and seeds were offered them, I can attribute to nothing but the unseen hand of the God of missions. That their habits are really changed is acknowledged by themselves. The men say, whereas they did not once labor with their hands, now they do; and often tell me in jesting that I have converted them into a nation of women. They are a very industrious people, and, from very small beginnings, they now cultivate their lands with much skill and to good advantage. Doubtless many more would cultivate, but for the want of means. Your kind donation of fifty hoes, in behalf of the government, will be most timely; and should you be able to send up the plows you kindly proposed, they will, without doubt, be purchased immediately, and put to the best use.

But to return to the school. It now numbers two hundred and twenty-five in daily attendance, half of which are adults. Nearly all the principal men and chiefs in this vicinity, with one chief from a neighboring tribe, are members of the school. A new impulse was given to the school by the warm interest you and Mr. McKay took in it while you were here. They are as industrious in school as they are on their farms. Their improvement is astonishing, considering their crowded condition, and only Mrs. Spalding, with her dalicate constitution and her family cares, for their teacher.

About one hunded are printing their own books with a pen. This keeps up a deep interest, as they daily have new lessons to

print, and what they print must be committed to memory as soon as possible.

A good number are now so far advanced in reading and printing as to render much assistance in teaching. Their books are taken home at nights, and every lodge becomes a school room.

Their lessons are scripture lessons—no others, except the laws, seem to interest them. I send you a specimen of the books they print in school. It was printed by ten select adults, yet it is a fair specimen of a great number in the school.

The laws which you so happily prepared, and which were unanimously adopted by the people, I have printed in the form of a small school book. A great number of the school now read them fluently. I send you a few copies of the laws, with no apologies for the imperfect manner in which they are executed. Without doubt, a school of nearly the same number could be collected at Kimiah, the station above this, vacated by Mr. Smith, the present residence of Ellis, the principal chief.

Number who cultivate,—Last season about one hundred and forty cultivated from one-fourth of an acre to four or five acres each. About half this number cultivate in the valley. One chief raised about one hundred and seventy-six bushels of peas last season, one hundred of corn, and four hundred of potatoes. Another one hundred and fifty of peas, one hundred and sixty of corn, a large quantity of vegetables, potatoes, etc. Ellis, I believe, raised rather more than either of the above mentioned. Some forty other individuals raised from twenty to one hundred bushels of various grains. Eight individuals are now furnished with plows. Thirty-two head of cattle are possessed by two individuals; ten sheep by four.; some forty hogs.

Arts and sciences.—Mrs. Spalding has instructed ten females in knitting, a majority of the female department in the schools in sewing, six in carding and spinning, and three in weaving. Should our worthy brother and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Littlejohn, join us soon, as is now expected, I trust, by the blessing of God, we shall see greater things than we have yet seen. From what I have seen in the field, the school, the spinning and weaving room, in the prayer room, and Sabbath congregation, I am fully of the opinion that this people are susceptible of high moral and civil improvement.

Moral character of the people.—On this point there is a great diversity of opinion. One writer styles them more a nation of saints than of savages; and if their refusing to move camp for game, at his suggestion, on a certain day, reminded him that the Sabbath extended as far west as the Rocky Mountains, he might well consider them such. Another styles them supremely selfish, which is nearer the truth; for without doubt, they are the descen-

dants of *Adam*. What I have above stated is evidently a part of the bright side of their character. But there is also a dark side, in which I have sometimes taken part. I must, however, confess that when I attempt to name it, and hold it up as a marked exception to a nation in similar circumstances, without the restraint of wholesome laws, and strangers to the heaven-born fruits of enlighted and well-regulated society, I am not able to do it. Faults they have, and very great ones, yet few of them seemed disposed to break the Sabbath by travelling and other secular business. A very few indulge in something like profane swearing. Very few are supersittiously attached to their medicine men—who are, without doubt, sorcerers—and supposed to be leagued with a supernatural being—wakin—who shows himself sometimes in the great bear, the wolf, the swan, goose, wind, clouds, etc.

Lying is very common; thieving comparatively rare; polygamy formerly common, but now rare; much gambling among the young men; quarrelling and fighting quite rare; habit of taking back property after it is sold is a practice quite common, and very evil in its tendency. All these evils, I conceive, can be traced to the want of wholesome laws and well regulated society. There are two traits in the character of this people I wish to notice. One I think I can account for; the other I cannot. It is often said the Indian is a noble-minded being, never forgetting a kindness. So far as my experience has gone with this people, the above is most emphatically true, but in quite a different sense from the idea there conveyed. It is true they never forget a kindness, but often make it an occasion to ask another; and if refused, return insults according to the favors received. My experience has taught me that, if I would keep the friendship of an Indian, and do him good, I must show him no more favor in the way of property than what he returns some kind of an equivalent for; most of our trials have arisen from this source. I am, however, happy to feel that there is a manifest improvement as the people become more instructed, and we become more acquainted with their habits. This offensive trait in the Indian character I believe, in part, should be charged to the white man. It has been the universal practice of all the white men to give tobacco, to name no other article to Indians when they ask for it. Hence two very natural ideas—one is, that the white man is in debt to them; the other is, that in proportion as a white man is a good man he will discharge his debt by giving bountifully of his provisions and goods. This trait in Indian character is capable of being turned to the disadvantage of traders, travellers, and missionaries, by prejudiced white men.

The last trait, which I cannot account for, is an apparent disregard for the rights of white men. Although their eagerness to receive instruction in the school on the Sabbath and on the farm is

without a parallel in my knowledge, still should a reckless fellow from their own number, or even a stranger, make an attack on my life and property, I have no evidence to suppose but a vast majority of them would look on with indifference, and see our dwelling burnt to the ground and our heads severed from our bodies. I cannot reconcile this seeming want of gratitude with their many encouraging characteristics. But to conclude this subject, should our unprofitable lives, through a kind Providence, be spared a few years, by the blessing of the God of missions, we expect to see this people christianized to a great extent, civilized, and happy, with much of science and the word of God, and many of the comforts of life; but not without many days of hard labor, and sore trials of disappointed hopes and nameless perplexities.

And while the agency of Indian Affairs remains in the hands of the present agent, I have the fullest confidence to believe that the reasonable expeetations in reference to the intercourse between whites and Indians will be fully realized by every philanthropist and every christian. But as the Indian population is sparse, after they are abundantly supplied, there will be remaining country sufficient for an extensive white population.

The thought of removing these tribes, that the country may come wholly in the possession of the whites, can never for a moment enter into the mind of a friend of the red man, for the following reason to name no other; there are but two countries to which they can be removed, the Grave and the Blackfoot, between which there is no choice.

Your humble servant,

H. H. SPALDING,

Hon. WILLIAM WILKINS,

Secretary of War.

Communications have been received from Dr. Elijah White, subagent for the Indians in Oregon Territory, dated, severally, November 15, 1843, and 18th March, 1844, (98, 99, 100.) They contain much of interest in considerable detail. The establishment of white settlements from the United States, in that remote region, seems to be attended with the circumstances that have always arisen out of the conversion of an American wilderness into a cultivated and improved region, modified by the great advance of the present time in morals and benevolent and religious institutions. It is very remarkable, that there should be so soon several well-supported, well attended, and well conducted schools in Oregon. The Nez Perces tribe of Indians have adopted a few

simple and plain laws as their code, which will teach them self-restraint, and is the beginning of government on their part.

It is painful, however, to know that a distillery for the manufacture of whiskey was erected and in operation west of the Rocky mountains, which, however, the sub-agent, sustained by the resident whites, broke up and destroyed. There was in February last an affray between a very boisterous and desperate Indian and his party and a portion of the settlers, which ended in the death of several of the combatants. This unfortunate affair was adjusted, as it is hoped, satisfactorily and permanently, by the sub-agent, though he seems to apprehend an early outbreak. I trust he is mistaken.

Respectfully submitted,

T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON, NOV. 15TH, 1848.

Hon. J. M. PORTER,

Secretary of War.

HONORED SIR: Since my arrival, I have had the honor of addressing you some three or four communications, the last of which left early in April, conveyed by the Hudson's Bay Company's express over the Rocky Mountains, via. Canada, which I hope and judge was duly received.

Immediately, after this, I received several communications from missionaries of the interior, some from the Methodists, and others sent out by the American board, representing the Indians in the interior as in a great state of excitement, and under much apprehension from the circumstance that such number of whites were coming in, as they were informed, to take possession of their land and country. The excitement soon became general, both among whites and Indians, in this lower as well as upper district; and such were the constantly floating groundless reports, that much uneasiness was felt, and some of our citizens were under such a state of apprehension as to abandon their houses, and place themselves more immediately within the precincts of the colony. As in all such cases, a variety of opinions were entertained and expressed—some pleading for me, at the expense of the general government, to throw up a strong fortification in the centre of the colony, and furnish the settlers with guns and ammunition, so that we might be prepared for extremities. Others thought it more advisable for me to go with an armed force of considerable strength to the heart and centre of the conspiracy, as it was represented, and if words will not answer, make power

and balls do it. A third party entertained different views, and few were really agreed on any one measure.

As may be imagined, I felt the awkwardness of my position; but, without stopping to consult an agitated populace, selected a sensible clergyman and a single attendant, with my interpreter, and so managed as to throw myself immediately into their midst unobserved. The measure had the desired effect—though, as in my report I will more fully inform you, had like to have cost me my life.

The Indians flocked around me, and inquired after my party, and could not be persuaded, for some time, but that I had a large party concealed somewhere near, and only waited to get them convened, to open a fire upon, and cut them all off at a blow. On convincing them of my defenceless condition and pacific intentions, they were quite astounded and much affected, assuring me they had been under strong apprehensions, having learned I was soon to visit them with a large armed party, with hostile intentions, and I actually found them suffering more from fears of war from the whites, than the whites from the Indians—each party resolving, however, to remain at home, and there fight to the last—though, fortunately, some three or four hundred miles apart.

The day following we left these Wallawallas and Keyuses, to pay a visit to the Nez Perces, promising to call on our return, and enter into a treaty of amity, if we could agree on the terms, and wished them to give general notice to all concerned, of both tribes.

In two days we were at Mr. Spalding's station. The Nez Perces came together in greater numbers than on any former occasion for years, and all the circumstances combining to favor it, received us most cordially. Their improvement during the winter, in reading, writing, etc., was considerable, and the enlargement of their plantations, with the increased variety and quantities of the various kinds of grains and products now vigorously shooting forth, connected with the better state of cultivation and their universally good fences, were certainly most encouraging.

Spending some days with this interesting tribe, and their devoted missionaries, in the pleasantest manner, they accepted my invitation to visit with me the Keyuses and Wallawallas, and assist by their influence to bring them into the same regulation they had previously adopted, and with which all were so well pleased.

Mr. Spalding and Ellis, the high chief, with every other chief and brave of importance, and some four or five hundred of the men and their women, accompanied us to Waiilaptu, Dr. Whitman's station, a distance of a hundred and twenty miles, where we met the Keyuses and Wallawallas in mass, and spent some five or six days in getting matters adjusted and principles settled,

so as to receive the Keyuses into the civil compact; which being done, and the high chief elected, much to the satisfaction of both whites and Indians, I ordered two fat oxen killed, and wheat, salt etc., distributed accordingly. * * * * * *

This was the first feast at which the Indian women of this country were ever permitted to be present, but probably will not be the last; for, after some explanation of my reasons, the chiefs were highly pleased with it; and I believe more was done at that feast to elevate and bring forward their poor, oppressed women than could have been done in years by private instruction.

The feast broke up in the happiest manner after Five-Crows, the Keyuse chief, Ellis, and the old war chief of whom I made particular mention in my last report as being so well acquainted with Clark, and a few others, had made their speeches, and we had smoked the pipe of peace, which was done by all in great good humor.

From this, we proceeded to the Dalles on the Columbia river, where I spent two months in instructing the Indians of different tribes, who either came in mass, or sent ambassadors to treat with me, or, as they denominate it, take my laws, which are thus far found to operate well, giving them greater security among themselves, and helping much to regulate their intercourse with the whites. Being exceedingly anxious to bring about an improvement and reformation among this people, I begged money and procured articles for clothing to the amount of a few hundred dollars, not to be given, but to be sold out to the industrious women, for mats, baskets, and their various articles of manufacture, in order to get them cloathed comfortably to appear at church; enlisted the cheerful co-operation of the mission ladies in instructing them how to sew and make up their dresses; and had the happiness to see some twenty of these neatly clad at divine service, and a somewhat larger number out in the happiest mood to a feast I ordered them, at which the mission ladies and gentlemen were present.

During these two months I labored hard, visiting many of their sick daily; and by the most prompt and kind attention, and sympathysing with them in their affliction, encouraging the industrious and virtuous, and frowning in language and looks upon the vicious, I am satisfied good was done. They gave evidence of attachment; and my influence was manifestly increased, as well as the laws more thoroughly understood, by reason of my remaining so long among them.

During my up-country excursion, the whites of the colony convened, and formed a code of laws to regulate intercourse between themselves during the absence of law from our mother country, adopting in almost all respects the Iowa code. In this I was con-

sulted, and encouraged the measure, as it was so manifestly necessary for the collection of debts, securing rights in claims, and the regulation of general intercourse among the whites.

Thus far, these laws have been of some force and importance, answering well in cases of trespass and the collection of debts; but it is doubtful how they would succeed in criminal affairs, especially if there should happen to be a division of sentiment in the public mind.

The Indians of this lower country, as was to be expected, give considerable trouble, and are most vexatious subjects to deal with. In mind the weakest and most depraved of their race, and physically, thoroughly contaminated with the scorfula, and a still more loathsome disease entailed by the whites; robbed of their game and former means of covering; lost to the use of the bow and arrow; laughed at, scoffed, and contemned by the whites, and a hiss and by-word to the surrounding tribes, they are too dejected and depressed, to feel the least pleasure in their former amusements, and wander about seeking generally a scanty pittance by begging and pilfering, but the more ambitious and desperate among them stealing, and in some instances plundering on a large scale. Were it not that greater forbearance is exercised towards them than whites generally exercise, bloodshed, anarchy, and confusion would reign predominant among us. But, thus far, it is but just say, the Indians have been, in almost every instance, the aggressors; and though none of us now apprehend an Indian war or invasion, it appears to me morally impossible that general quiet can long be secure, unless government take almost immediate measures to relieve the anxieties and better the condition of these poor savages and other Indians of this country. I am doing what I can, by reason of my profession, with lending them all the assistance possible in sickness, and sympathising with them in their numerous afflictions, and occasionally feeding, feasting, and giving them little tokens of kind regard, have as yet considerable influence over them, but have to punish some, and occasion the chiefs to punish more, which creates me enemies, and must eventuate in lessening my influence among them, unless the means are put in my hands to sustain and encourage the chiefs and well-disposed among them. *Good words*, *kind looks*, and *medicine*, have some *power;* but, honored and very dear sir, *you* and *I* know they do not tell with Indians like blankets and present articles, to meet their tastes, wants, and necessities. Sir, I know how deeply anxious you are to benefit and save what can be of the withering Indian tribes, in which God knows how fully and heartily I am with you, and earnestly pray you, and through you our general government, to take immediate measures to satisfy the minds, and so far as possible, render to these Indians an equiva-

lent for their once numerous herds of deer, elk, buffalo, beaver, and otter, nearly as tame as our domestic animals, previously to the whites and their fire arms coming among them, and of which they are now stripped, and for which they suffer. But, if nothing can be done for them on this score, pray save them from being forcibly ejected from the lands and graves of their fathers, of which they begin to entertain serious fears. Many are becoming considerably enlightened on the subject of the white man's policy, and begin to quake in view of their future doom; and come to me from time to time, anxiously inquiring what they are to receive for such an one coming and cutting off all their most valuable timber, and floating it to the falls of the Willamette, and getting large sums for it; some praying the removal of licentious whites from among them; others requring pay for their old homestead, or a removal of the intruders. So, sir, you see already I have my hands, head and heart full; and if as yet I have succeeded in giving satisfaction—as many hundreds that neither know nor care for me, nor regard in the least the rights of the Indians are now flocking in—something more must be done, and that speedily, or a storm ensues.

I remove all licentious offenders from among them, especially if located a distance from the colony, and encourage the community to keep within bounds, and settle as compactly as the general interest and duty to themselves will admit.

The large emigrating party have now arrived, most of them with their herds, having left the wagons at Wallawalla and the Dalles, which they intend to bring by land or water to the Willamette in the spring. Whether they succeed in getting them through by land the last sixty miles is doubtful, the road not having been as yet well explored. They are greatly pleased with the country and its prospects. Mr. Applegate, who has been so much in government employ and surveyed such portions of the Missouri, says of this valley, it is a country of the greatest beauty and the finest soil he has seen.

Having visited larger portions, and in different directions, the last summer than heretofore—principally in the mountainous parts between this and the Dalles—I am most cheerful in saying, I have not seen a country presenting such a variety of beautiful scenery, and possessing, at the same time, such advantage of timber, water, strength of soil, and mildness of climate; and, as to health, having visited sixteen of the United States, the Sandwich islands, with some other portions of the earth, I must say, after practising medicine somewhat extensively for the last six years, I regard it the most healthy country with which I am acquainted; diseases the least numerous in class, and simple in character, being entirely under the control of proper remedies.

The settlers are actively and vigorously employed, and the colony in a most prosperous state; crops of every kind having been unusually good this season. The little unhappy difference between the American settlers and the Hudson's Bay company, arising from the last spring's petition to our government, has been healed, and we have general quiet—both parties conducting very properly towards each other at present. And here allow me to say, the seasonable service in which hundreds of dollars were gratuitously expended in assisting such numbers of our poor emigrant citizens down the Columbia to the Willamette, entitle Gov. McLaughlin, saying nothing of his previously fatherly fostering care of this colony, to the honorable consideration of the members of this government. And I hope, as he is desirous to settle with his family in this country, and has made a claim at the falls of the Willamette, his claim will be honored in such a manner as to make him conscious that we, as a nation, are not insensible to his numerous acts of benevolence and hospitality towards our countrymen. Sir, in the midst of slander, envy, jealousy, and, in too many instances, of the blackest ingratitude, his unceasing, never tiring hospitality affects me, and makes him appear in a widely different light than too many would have him and his worthy associates appear before the world.

The last year's report, in which was incorporated Mr. Linn's Oregon Speech and Captain Spalding's statements of hundreds of unoffending Indians being shot down annually by men under his control, afflicts the gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Company, and is utterly without foundation—no company or gentleman ever having conducted more judiciously among Indians than they uniformly have done in this country; and I am of the Governor's opinion, who declares, openly, there have not ten Indians been killed by whites in this whole region west of Fort Hall, for the last twenty years, nor do I know of that number, and two of those were killed by our citizens. What were destroyed by the Hudson's Bay Company suffered for willful murder, none pretending a doubt of the propriety of the course adopted.

There are now four schools kept in the colony, of which I shall speak more fully in my annual report—one at the Falatine Plains, under the direction and auspices of the Rev. Mr. Clark, a self-supporting missionary; a second—French and English—school, is in successful operation by Mr. Blanchette, Roman Catholic missionary to this colony; a third is well supported by the citizens, and kept at the falls of the Willamette; a fourth—boarding and manual labor—sustained by the Methodist board of missions, for the benefit of Indian youth, of which Mr. Lee will speak particularly. The location is healthy, eligible, and beautiful and the noble edifice does honor to the benevolent cause and agents that foun-

ded it. And while here, allow me to say Mr. Jesse Applegate, from Missouri, is now surveying the mission claim, a plan of which will be presented to the consideration of the members of our government, for acceptance or otherwise, of which I have but little to say, as I entertain no doubt Mr. Lee's representation will be most faithful. Should the ground of his claim be predicated upon the much effected for the benefit of the Indians, I am not with him; for, with all that has been expended, without doubting the correctness of the intention, it is most manifest to every observer that the Indians of this lower country, as a whole, have been very little benefitted. They were too far gone with scrofula and venereal. But should he insist, as a reason of his claim, the benefit arising to the colony and country, I am with him heartily; and notwithstanding the claim is a valuable one, this country has been increased more by the mission operations, than twice its amount in finance; besides, much has been done in advancing civilization, temperance, literature, and good morals, saying nothing of the evils that must have arisen in this lawless country in the absence of all moral restraints. Mr. Lee was among the first pioneers to this distant land, has struggled in its cares, toils, and trials, has risen with its rise; and it is but just to say, he and his associates are exerting a considerable and most salutary influence all abroad among us. I hope his reception will be such that he will return from Washington cheered and encouraged to pursue his benevolent operations in this country. The Catholic and different Protestant missions have been prosperous during the last year, and are as generally acceptable to the whites as could, from the different pursuits, be expected.

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In closing, allow me to say, for the instruction and encouragement of emigrants:—Come light, save with provisions, and travel compactly. Heed this last injunction by all means, so far at least as not less than fifty to be found aloof from the main camp, and you will save yourselves from danger and wrong, and the Indians from temptation and guilt. Last spring I addressed a communication to the present immigrating party, meeting them at Fort Hall, urging upon them, from a variety of considerations, the same directions, a part only of whom followed them—others came strolling along in little bands of from two to six, and, as was to be expected, scarcely any escaped without being robbed and pillaged. Such conduct is highly censurable, as it tends directly to encourage and embolden the Indians to their hurt and our ruin. By travelling compactly, and treating the Indians kindly, but with proper reserve, and at all times keeping a vigilant watch, no danger is to be apprehended to person or property; but without these regulations there is danger. Have no apprehension of want; it is

a land of plenty; and, after a long and well contested debate, a few months since, at our Oregon lyceum, it was unanimously voted, that the colony of Willamette held out the most flattering encouragement to emigrants of any colony on the globe. Great expectations are entertained, from the fact that Mr. Linn's bill has passed the Senate; and as it has been so long before the public, and favorably entertained at Washington, should it at last fail of passing the lower house, suffer me to predict, in view of what so many have had to undergo, in person and property, to get to this distant country, it will create a disaffection so strong as to end only in open rebellion: whereas, should it pass into a law, it will be regarded as most liberal and handsome, and will be appreciated by most, if not all in Oregon.

As to the claim for the Oregon institute, I need say nothing, having said enough in my last report; but, as that may have failed in reaching, I would just remark, that the location is a healthy one, and the site fine, with prospect charmingly varied, extensive and beautiful.

I leave this subject with Mr. Lee and the members of our liberal government, not doubting but that all will be done for this institute, and otherwise, that can be, and as soon as practicable, to lay deep and broad the foundation of science and literature in this country.

And here I must close, as Mr. Lee is already sixty miles on his way, but not without saying I am much obliged in getting your last report, which reached me a few weeks since, and shall feel still more obliged and honored in getting a communication from your own pen, enlightening, correcting, encouraging, or admonishing me, in my new and difficult work, and certainly most awkward position, in which, as yet, I have succeeded better with both whites and Indians than I expected, and can but hope some good has been effected by my appointment, especially to the latter.

As my formerworthy interpreter is dead, allow me to pray the appointment of Ellis, the high chief of the Nez Perces, in his stead, who is not only versed in his own tongue and the Wallawallas, but an English scholar, and a man of sense. As he is so well regarded, his appointment will have a good influence both among whites and Indians.

I have kept within limit of the three hundred dollars for interpreters the last year, being under the necessity of paying one hundred and eighty dollars for sixty days' service at one time, and in no instance short of a dollar per day, though I hire as I want, and dismiss at once on closing present business—this being the only way I could hope to give the department satisfaction, in view of the multiplicity of tribes and languages this side the mountains. I have sent for and been hourly expecting my bills from

Vancouver, but, from some cause unknown to me, they have not yet reached, and by this reason I am prevented sending at this time my quarterly report of expenditure—a circumstance I regret, and did not expect; but, aside from interpreter, travelling expenses, and for office contingencies, it is small, and shall be forwarded at my earliest convenience. The sum allowed for feeding and feasting Indians, as provisions are very high—beef being worth from five to seven dollars per hundred, pork from eight to ten dollars, wheat, corn, barley, and peas, a dollar, and potatoes forty cents—proves hardly sufficient to give satisfaction. The erection of my little office, at the expense of two hundred and twenty-five dollars, I hope and trust, with my actual travelling expenses, will be paid. If this cannot be done consistently, pray call me home at once.

As I notified you in my report, I cannot sell drafts payable in Washington, and await your order to draft on London for at least one thousand dollars per annum, as, for the last year, for interpreter and my travelling expenses, with office contingencies and presents to Indians, I have been under the necessity of drafting more from Vancouver than I expected—the Indian excitement and threatened invasion rendering this unavoidable.

Respectfully yours,
ELIJAH WHITE,
Sub-Agent Indian Affairs, W. R. M.

WILLAMETTE, MARCH 18TH, 1844.

Hon. J. M. PORTER,
Secretary of War.

SIR: On the evening of the first February, the two following letters came to me, finding me in the upper settlement of the Willamette, distance forty miles:

WILLAMETTE FALLS, JANUARY 24TH, 1844.

DR. E. WHITE,
Sub-Agent of Indian Affairs for Oregon Territory.

"DEAR SIR: The undersigned would take this occasion to inform you that there has been of late in this place some few cases of intoxication from the effects of ardent spirits. It is currently reported that it is distilled in this place, and the undersigned have good reason to credit such reports. Whilst, therefore, the undersigned will not trouble you, sir, with a detailed exposition of the facts, they must be permitted to express their deliberate conviction that that which has inflicted so much injury upon the

morals, the peace, and the happiness of the world, ought not to be permitted to be manufactured in this country under any circumstances. And your attention is respectfully invited to this subject.

"We have the honor to be, dear sir,

"PETER H. HATCH, *President*,
"A. F. LOVEJOY, *Vice President*,
"A. F. WALLER, *Secretary*."

"WILLAMETTE FALLS, JANUARY 26TH, 1844.

E. WHITE,
Sub-Agent Oregon Territory.

"DEAR SIR: I do not know but you have been written to already on the subject which is the cause of no inconsiderable excitement at this place, viz: The manufacture and use of that most degrading, withering, and damning of all the causes that has ever visited our race since the fall of Adam. As much as we regret it, deplore it, and anathematize the man who made it, it is nevertheless made, and men, or rather biped brutes, get drunk. Now, we believe if there is any thing that calls your attention in your official capacity, or any thing in which you would be most cordially supported by the good sense and prompt action of the better part of the community, it is the present case. We do not wish to dictate, but hope for the best, begging pardon for intrusions.

I am, dear sir, yours truly,
W. H. WILSON.

I accordingly left at sunrise on the following morning, and reached the falls at sunset. Without delay, I secured the criminal and his distillery, broke his apparatus, and buried it in the Willamette river. I put the aggressor under bonds, in the strongest penalty the nature of the case would admit, three hundred dollars—few being willing to be his bondmen even for this amount.

Mr. Pettygrove, a merchant of good habits and character, being accused of keeping and selling wine and brandy, I searched, and found, as he had acknowledged, a half-gallon of brandy, and part of a barrel of port wine, which has been used and occasionally parted with only for medicinal purposes; and to avoid all appearance of partiality, I required the delivery of the brandy and wine on the delivery of the enclosed bond, which was most cheer-

fully and cordially given—amount one thousand dollars. I searched every suspicious place thoroughly, aided by the citizens, but found no ardent spirits or wine in the colony. Since this period, no attempt has been made to make, introduce or vend liquors; and the great majority of the colonists come warmly to my support in this matter, proffering their aid to keep this bane from our community.

On the evening of February 29, I received the following communication, accompanied by corroboratory statements from Mr. Foster, of Oregon city:

Dr. E. White,
Superintendent, &c

"WILLAMETTE FALLS, February 16th, 1844.

Sir: I beg leave to inform you that there is an Indian about this place, by the name of 'Cockstock,' who is in the habit of making continual threats against the settlers in this neighborhood, and who has also murdered several Indians lately. He has conducted himself lately in so outrageous a manner, that Mr. Winslow Anderson has considered himself in personal danger, and on that account has left his place, and come to reside at the falls of the Willamette; and were I in circumstances that I could possibly remove from my place, I would certainly remove also, but am so situated that it is not possible for me to do so. I beg, therefore, that you, sir, will take into consideration the propriety of ridding the country of a villian, against the depredations of whom none can be safe, as it is impossible to guard against the lurking attacks of the midnight murderer. I have therefore taken the liberty of informing you that I shall be in expectation of a decided answer from you on or before the 10th of March next; after that date I shall consider myself justified in acting as I shall see fit, on any repetition of the threats made by the before-mentioned Indian or his party.

I am, &c., with respect,
JAMES D. SAULES."

As I well knew all the individuals concerned, I resolved to repair immediately to the spot, and, if possible, secure the Indian without bloodshed, as he was connected with some of the most formidable tribes in this part of the territory, though a very dangerous and violent character. Accordingly, I started, and reached the falls the following evening, collected a party to repair to the spot, and secure him whilst asleep, knowing that he would not submit to be taken a prisoner without resistence. The evening was stormy, and the distance some eight mlles, through thick wood and fallen timber, with two bad streams to cross. Being on foot, my party declined the attempt till morning—a circumstance I much

regretted; yet, having no military force, I was compelled to yield. In the morning I headed the party of ten men to take this Indian, who had only five adherents, in hope to surprise and secure him without fighting—enjoining my men, from many considerations, not to fire unless ordered to do so in self-defence. Unfortunately, two horses had just been stolen and a house plundered, and the Indians absconded, leaving no doubt on our minds of their being the thieves, as after tracking them two or thee miles into the forest, they had split off in such a manner as to elude pursuit, and we were forced to return to town unsuccessful, as further pursuit was little more rational than chasing an eagle to the mountains. Cockstock had sworn vengeance against several of my party, and they thirsted for his blood. Having no other means of securing him, I offered one hundred dollars reward to any who would deliver him safely into my hands, as I wished to convey him for trial to the authorities constituted among the Nez Perces and Keyuses, not doubting that they would feel honored in inflicting a just sentence upon him, and the colony thereby be saved from an Indian war, so much to be dreaded in our present weak and defenceless condition.

Some six days subsequent, Cockstock and his party, six in all, came into town at mid-day, rode from house to house, showing their loaded pistols, and not allowing any one, by artifice or flattery, to get them out of his bosom or hand. He and his party were horribly painted, and rode about the town, setting, as the citizens and especially his enemies construed it, the whole town at defiance. The citizens endured it for several hours, but with great impatience, when at length he crossed the river, and entered the Indian village opposite, and, as the chief states, labored for some time to induce them to join him and burn down the town that night, destroying as many of the whites as possible. Failing in this—if serious or correct in statement, which is much doubted by some, as the chief and the whole Indian village were inimical to him, and doubtless wished, as he was a "brave," to make the whites the instrument of his destruction—he obtained an interpreter and re-crossed the river, as other Indians state, for the purpose of calling the whites to an explanation for pursuing him with hostile intentions. By this time, the excitement had become intense with all classes amongst the whites; and, as was to be expected, they ran in confusion and disorder towards the point where the Indians were landing—some to take him alive and get the reward, others to shoot him at any risk to themselves, the wealthiest men in town promising to stand by them to the amount of one thousand dollars each. With these different views, and no concert of action, and many running merely to witness the affray, the Indians were met at the landing, and a firing simultaneously

commenced on both sides, each party accusing the other of firing first. In the midst of a hot firing on both sides, Mr. George W. Le Breton, a respectable young man, rushed unarmed upon Cockstock, after the discharge of one or more of his pistols, and received a heavy discharge in the palm of his right hand, lodging one ball in his elbow and another in his arm, two inches above the elbow joint. A scuffle ensued, in which he fell with the Indian, crying out instantly, "he is killing me with his knife." At this moment, a mulatto man ran up, named Winslow Anderson, and despatched Cockstock, by breaking in his skull with the barrel of his rifle, using it as a soldier would a bayonet. In the mean time, the other Indians were firing among the whites in every direction, with guns, pistols and poisoned arrows, yelling fearfully, and many narrowly escaped. Two men who were quietly at work near by, were wounded with arrows—Mr. Wilson slightly in the hip, and Mr. Rogers in the muscle of the arm—but neither, as was supposed, dangerously. The five Indians, having shot their guns and arrows, retired towards the bluff east of the town, lodged themselves in the rocks, and again commenced firng upon the citizens indiscriminately. Attention was soon directed that way, and the fire-arms having been brought, the Indians were soon routed, killing one of their horses, and wounding one of them, thus ending the affray.

Mr. Le Breton—the surgeon being absent from town—was removed immediately to Vancouver, where he received every attention; but the canoe having been ten hours on the passage, the poison had diffused itself all abroad in his system, and proved mortal in less than three days from the moment of the horrid disaster. Mr. Rogers lived but one day longer, though slightly wounded with an arrow in the muscle of his arm. Wr. Wilson has suffered comparatively little, but is not considered in a safe condition.

This unhappy affray has created a general sensation throughout the colony, and all abroad among the Indians of this lower district. Now, whilst I am penning these lines, I am completely surrounded by at least seventy armed Indians, just down from the Dalles of the Columbia, many of them professed relatives of the deceased, on their way to the falls of the Willamette, to demand an explanation, or, in other words, to extort a present for the loss af their brother.

They appear well affected towards me—remarkably so—though armed to the teeth, and painted horridly. I am every moment expecting my interpreter, when I shall probably learn particulars respecting their intentions. In the mean time, I will give a few particulars respecting this deceased Indian's previous course, which led to the disaster, showing how much we need authorities and discipline in this country.

As it is said, a negro hired Cockstock for a given time, to be paid in a certain horse. Before the time expired, the negro sold the horse and land claim to another negro, the Indian finishing his time with the purchaser, according to agreement. Learning, however, to his chagrin and mortification, that the horse had changed owners, and believing it a conspiracy against his rights, resolved to take the horse forcibly—did so—and this led to a year's contention, many threats, some wounds, and at last to the three deaths, and may possibly lead to all the horrors of savage warfave in our hitherto quiet neighborhood. It was this identical Cockstock that occasioned much of the excitement last spring, among the whites of the colony, actually driving several from their homes to the more central part of the settlement for protection.

I saw and had an interview with the Indians in June following, and settled all differences, to appearance, satisfactorily; but, four months subsequently, having occasioned the authorities constituted among the Indians to flog one of his connexions for violently entering the house of the Rev. H. R. Perkins, seizing his person, and attempting to tie, with a view to flog him, he took fire afresh, and in November last came with a slave to my house, with the avowed object of shooting me down at once; but finding me absent, after a close search in every part of the house, he commenced smashing the windows, lights, sash, and all, of my house and office, with the breach of his gun; and it is but just to say, he did his work most effectually, not leaving a sound window in either. He next started hotly in pursuit of my steward, who was most actively retreating, but soon overtaken and seized by the shoulder; his garment giving way, saved the frightened young man from further violence.

I returned late in the evening, this having occured at three, P. M., when the villians were too far away to be overtaken, though I pursued them with the best men of the colony during the whole night, and so long as we could trace them. This was regarded a great outrage, and created a strong sensation throughout the community, especially as none knew where to trace it until within a few weeks past. Some four weeks subsequently, fifteen Indians came in open day, riding into the neighborhood, painted and well armed. I was the first, with one exception, that observed them, and learned they were Molalles and Klamets, and felt confident they were on an errand of mischief, being well informed of their marauding and desperate habits. As this is quite out of their province, the proper home of the Klamets being at least three hundred miles to the south, and the Molalles, with whom they intermary, having their lodges in the Cascade mountains, a distance of from forty to eighty miles, I resolved at once to turn their visit to account; sent my steward to chief Caleb's lodge, where all had

arrived, he being a Callapooyah, and with his band having previously entered with me into the civil compact, and gave him a cordial invitation to call on me, with the chiefs visiting him, in the morning, as I wished to see them, and had some interesting and pleasing news to convey to them. The chiefs called in the morning, none, however, appearing so pleased and happy as Caleb.

Of this I took no notice; but entered into cheerful conversation with Caleb for a few moments, and then rose up and invited them to walk out and see my plantation and herds.

When we reached the cattle, I, as by accident, or incidentally, asked Caleb if he was prepared to give a feast to his distant friends who had so lately and unexpectedly called on him. Answering in the negative, I told him to shoot down at once a fat young ox that was passing before us, and, while some were dressing it, others to come to the house and get some flour, peas, salt, etc., and go immediately back and feast his friends, lest they form an unfavorable opinion of us here. I need not say the summons was obeyed, and Caleb the happiest man in the world. Now the rigid muscles of the stranger chiefs began to relax; in short, all distrust was soon lost, and as they were about leaving for Caleb's camp, they found themselves constrained to inform me that they came over with very different feelings from what they were now leaving me with, and were very glad they had listened to Caleb's advice, and called upon me. Professing to be very much engaged at the moment, I told them to go and dine, and at evening, or early the following morning, I would come with my friend, Mr. Applegate, and make them a call.

They feasted to the full, and I found them in fine humor, and in a better condition to smoke than fight. After some casual conversation, I asked them how they would like to enter into the civil compact; and, whilst they were discussing the subject, this Indian, Cockstock, came first into my presence, well armed, and appeared cold and distant, though I had no suspicion of his being the character who had so lately broken to pieces the windows in my house and office.

They had no scruples in saying they were entirely willing, and should be pleased on their part to enter upon the same terms as others, but did not know how it might be regarded by the residue of their respective tribes. They engaged to meet me on the 15th of March, with the residue of their people, and use their influence to bring about the desired object. The party left the same day, apparently in a cheerful mood, passed over the prairie singing, talking, and laughing merrily. As a part, however, were passing their horses over a difficult stream, the other part fell upon and massacred them in a most shocking manner, this villainous Cockstock acting a conspicuous part in the bloody affray.

I repaired to the spot without delay, as the whites were much excited, and wished to pursue and hang every one of them. I learned there had been unsettled feuds of long standing, and that in like manner, ten months previously, three unfortunate wretches had shot down a fellow traveller. On conveying this information to the citizens, all I believe were satisfied to stay at home, and remain quiet for the present.

Thus much for this Indian affair, which my interpreter having arrived, I have settled to-day with the Dalles Indians most satisfactorily. As was to be expected, they wished presents for the death of their brother. I prevailed upon all to be seated, and then explained the whole case slowly and clearly to their understanding. I told them we had lost two valuable innocent men, and they but one; and should our people learn that I had given them presents, without their giving me two blankets for one, they must expect nothing but the hottest displeasure from the whites. After much deliberation among themselves, they with one voice concluded to leave the whole matter to my discretion.

I at once decided to give the poor Indian widow two blankets, a dress, and handkerchief, believing the moral influence better than to make presents to the chief or tribe, and to receive nothing at their hands. To this proposition they most cheerfully consented, and have now left, having asked for and obtained from me a written certificate, stating that the matter had all been amicably settled. It is to be hoped that the matter will here end, though that is by no means certain, as at present there are so many causes of uneasiness and discontent between the parties.

As I said before, I believe it morally impossible for us to remain at peace in Oregon, for any considerable time, without the protection of vigorous civil or military law. For myself, I am most awkwardly situated; so much so, indeed, that I had seriously anticipated leaving this spring; but the late successful contest against the introduction of ardent spirits, in connection with the excitement by reason of the unhaappy disaster at the falls of the Willamette, together with the fact of too many of our people being so extremely excitable on Indian and other affairs relating to the peace and interest of the colony and country, I have concluded to remain for the present, in hopes of being soon some way relieved. I hope that the draft I have this day drawn in favor of John McLaughlin will be honored, as otherwise I may be thrown at once into the greatest difficulties, having no other house in this country where I can draw such articles as I require for necessary presents to Indians, to defray travelling expenses, &c.

I have the honor to remain, with highest respect,

Your obedient humble servant,

E. WHITE,

Sub-Agent of Indian Affairs.

Hon. J. M. Porter,

Secretary of War, Washington.

Since my last, forwarded in March, aside from two or three incidents of an unpleasant nature, the colony and country have been in a state of unusual quietness, and the season has been one of great prosperity.

The legislative body, composed of nine members, met on the 24th of May, at the falls of the Willamette, and closed their short but effective session in nine days; having passed, in due form, twenty-five bills, most of which were of importance to us in the regulation of our intercourse. A few of these laws I transmit to you, and would here remark, that the taxes were in general cheerfully paid. The liquor bill is popular, and the laws of Oregon are honored.

The liquor act not coming in force under sixty days from its passage, a few individuals—having clandestinely prepared, before its passage—improved this favored moment to dispose of all they could with any hopes of safety. Of this I was immediately notified, and hastened in from the Falatine plains, all the mischief "as heretofore," being done in and about the town at the falls of the Willamette.

Liquor was in our midst, as was but too manifest from the noisy, vulgar, obscene, and even diabolical expressions of those who had previously ever conducted in a quiet and orderly manner.

This was perplexing and exciting, as all professed ignorance; and many opinions prevailed regarding the amount manufactured, and the number interested, and especially regarding the seat of mischief or point where distilled.

I resolved, at whatever danger or cost to nip this in the bud, procured the call of a public meeting at once and had the happiness to receive the following expression from all but one convened:

"Resolved, That it be the sense of this meeting, that Dr. White, in his official relation, take such assistance as he may require, and forthwith search out and destroy all intoxicating liquor that may be found in this vicinity or district of country.

P. G. STEWART, *Executive, Chairman.*

John E. Long, *Secretary.*"

I started with ten volunteers early the ensuing morning, and found the distillery in a deep, dense thicket, eleven miles from town, at three o'clock, P. M. The boiler was a large sized potash kettle, and all the apparatus well accorded. Two hogsheads and

eight barrels of slush or beer were standing ready for distillation, with a part of one barrel of molasses. No liquor was to be found, nor as yet had much been distilled.

Having resolved on my course, I left no time for reflection, but at once upset the nearest cask, when the noble volunteers immediately seconded my measures, making a river of beer in a moment; nor did we stop until the kettle was raised, and elevated in triumph at the prow of out boat, and every cask, with all the distilling apparatus, was broken to pieces and utterly destroyed. We then returned, in high cheer, to the town, where our presence and report gave general joy.

Having just taken the tour of the colony for the purpose of attending the courts and visiting the schools, it affords me pleasure to say I felt amply rewarded. I found throughout health, cheerfulness, and prosperity, and certainly most surprising improvements for the short time since the sttlers commenced. The decorum of the courts I have spoken of, and now have only to speak of the schools and Indians, and I am done; fearing I have already wearied your patience. For the want of means, the Methodist manual labor Indian school has lately broken up, and this is now occupied as a boarding school for white children of both sexes. The school is yet small, but well conducted, and promises usefulness to the colony. The school at the falls of the Willamette and Fallatine plains, and likewise the one under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Blanchette, Catholic clergyman, are all small—numbering from fifteen to thirty only; but are all well kept and doing good. I feel solicitous on this subject, and am saying and doing what I can to encourage education, but, like all other new countries, the people need and require their children much at home.

Since the unhappy affair of last spring, the Indians have been unusually quiet, and the summer has been spent without alarm. I sent my interpreter, Mr. Lee, to the Wallawallas six weeks since, to make some presents to the chiefs, as a safe conduct to the emigrants down to this place. His reply I transmit. I addressed a line to Mr. J. B. Littlejohn, who is just down from there, and received the annexed reply. All other statements are corroborative:

WILLAMETTE, November 1, 1844.

Dear Sir—It is with the utmost pleasure I undertake to give you what information I am able to do. I have resided with the missionaries of the American board for two years past; I have known their hearts, and am well acquainted with all they have done. Their influence among the Indians is by no means small, or their efforts vain, as their condition is very much improved, both in a spiritual and temporal point of view. And, dear sir,

your efforts among and for them have been much to their advantage, and at the same time not to the disadvantage of the missionaries, but greatly to increase their usefulness among them. I have no doubt you have labored with this motive in view. The Indians are becoming civilized as fast or faster than any tribes concerning whom I am informed. Their anxiety for cattle, hogs, and sheep, is very great; leading them to make most commendable efforts to obtain them, and their efforts are by no means vain. They have purchased a good number from those who are emigrating to this country, by exchanging their horses for cattle. Thus, while their horses have been very useful to the emigrants, they have greatly benefitted themselves. They are enlarging their farms yearly—improving much in fencing, etc. etc. Quite a number of families are enabled to live from what they raise on their farms, the milk of their cows and their beef. There is perfect quietness existing between them, and I have no doubt this state of things will continue to exist. Many things interesting might be written, but time does not allow me to say any more at present.

I am, dear sir, yours with great respect,

J. B. LITTLEJOHN.

Thus far the Indians have kept their treaties of amity with me astonishingly well, and it is thought we now have as much to hope as fear from them, if we succeed in keeping out liquor, which, by the grace of God, not a few of us are resolved to do, though we do not pass unopposed, nor slightly opposed; and had it not been for that most salutary liquor law, and the hearty co-operation of soms of the friends of temperance with your agent, liquor would have already made ruinous havoc among us.

The Methodist mission, though we have not agreed on all subjects, have behaved very properly on this. And to them, in connexion with the honorable Hudson's Bay Company, will the colony be lastingly indebted for their commendable efforts.

Since my first arrival I have not received a line from the Department save my last year's report. As my condition is peculiar, and not a little embarassing, I should feel greatly obliged for an expression, and further instruction from the Department. I have had, as may well be judged, much to contend with, in the midst of lawless Indians of so many different tribes, and lawless whites of so many nations—some bred upon old whaleships, others in the Rocky Mountains, and hundreds on the frontiers of Missouri. I have at times waded in deep perplexing difficulties, but am now greatly relieved by the colonial government, which as yet is well administered. By reason of this I now have less to do, and sail

in smoother seas, meeting with less opposition than heretofore—my proper official relations towards the whites and Indians being better understood.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient and humble servant,

E. WHITE,
Sub-agent Indian Affairs, W. R. M.

OREGON CITY, MARCH 4th, 1845.

DR. E. WHITE,
Sub-agent Indian Affairs.

SIR: In compliance with the request you made of me, that I should notice and communicate to you whatever, I might deem of interest during my visit, in your employ, to the various Indian tribes east of the Cascads mountains, bearing to them presents with admonitions and advice from you in order to secure the safety and peace of the emigrants in their passage through their country.

The following is submitted:

First. The Nez Perces. Your acquaintance with this promising people renders it unnecessary for me to speak of their general character. I would simply remark, that their anxieties to become a civilized and literary nation, have suffered no abatement sinceI left them in March last, after having spent the winter with them most pleasantly, as teacher, in the employ of Rev. H. H. Spalding, missionary. Ellis, with most of the chiefs, was absent, having gone to meet the emigrants, then in the vicinity of fort Boisie, with a view to furnish them provisions, and trade them horses for cattle. You are aware of their eagerness to obtain domestic stock, and farming utensils, which I regard as one of the most interesting facts connected with Indian Affairs west of the Rocky Mountains. Avarice is doubtless the ruling passion of most Indians, and forms a capital upon which those engaged in Indian Affairs may operate for good or evil. With the Nez Perces, it has thus far, been turned to good account, effecting results as beneficial to the whites and more salutary to the natives themselves, on this side the mountains, than has been effected on the other side by military force. Such is the prevalence of this "love of gain" amongst the Indians, that all efforts to control them by motives held out to any other passion, must prove ineffectual, at least, while we are unable to awe them by martial parade.

The individual difficulties existing between James, Timothy, and others, in relation to their claims on the valley, about the

Clearwater mission, are, for the time, put to rest by the promise that you will visit them soon, and have the matter properly adjusted. Their crops this year have been abundant, and they have furnished the emigrants large supplies of provisions, which I am happy to say, were bartered in good faith, and the trade conducted with much amity and good feeling on both sides, while I have to regret that Ellis and his people were unable to procure cattle to any extent, worthy of notice. The presents were received, and the advice heard with a most respectful attention.

Second. The Keyuses are also manifesting a spirit of enterprise, highly commendable. They too, have raised much grain and potatoes, and are trading freely with the emigrants. A number of their chiefs and principal men were absent at the time, having gone in company with a party of Wallawallas, to California, with horses to trade for cattle. They have since returned, and I sincerely regret to learn the failure of this, their first expedition of the kind. The Spaniards, and other whites, treated them badly; murdered one of the most promising young men of the Wallawallas, and the party returned without effecting the object of their trip. What influence this affair will have upon the conduct of these two tribes in reference to the next emigration passing through their countries, time alone must determine.

The lawless bands along the river, from Fort Wallawalla, to the to the Dalles, are still troublesome to emigrants; and the emigrants are still very imprudent in breaking off into small parties, just when they should remain united. The Indians are tempted by the unguarded and defenceless state of the emigrants, and avail themselves of the opportunity to gratify their cupidity. Here allow me to suggest a thought. These robbers furnish us a true miniature likeness of the whole Indian population, whenever they fail to obtain such things as they wish in exchange for such as they have to give. These are robbers now, because they have nothing to give; all others will be robbers when, with what they have to give, they cannot procure what they wish. I am satisfied of the correctness of this conclusion, from all that I have witnessed of Indian character, even among the praiseworthy Nez Perces. And should the Government of the United States withhold her protection from her subjects in Oregon, they will be under the neccessity of entering into treaty stipulations with the Indians, in violation of the laws of the United States, as preferable to a resort to force of arms. Hitherto, the emigrants have had no serious difficulty in passing through the territory of these tribes; but that their passage is becoming more and more a subject of interest to the Indians, is abundantly manifest. They collect about the road from every part of the country, and have looked on with amazement; but the novelty of the scene is fast

loosing its power to hold in check their baser passions. The next emigration will in all probability, call forth developments of Indian character, which have been almost denied an existence among these people. Indeed, sir, had you not taken the precaution to conciliate their good feelings and friendship towards the whites, just at the time they were meeting each other, it is to be doubted whether there had not been some serious difficulties. Individuals on both sides have been mutually provoked and exasperated during the passage of each emigration, and these cases are constantly multiplying. Much prudence is required on the part of the whites, and unfortunately, they have very little by the time they reach the Columbia valley. Some of the late emigrants, loosing their horses, and very naturally supposing them stolen by the Indians, went to the bands of horses owned by the Indians and took as many as they wished.

You are too well acquainted with Indians to suppose that such a course can be persisted in without producing serious results. I am aware that this is looking at the dark side; but, sir, perhaps it is wisdom to look at that side when it is more than half turned towards us, if, by looking, we can find some way to turn it back again. I look to Ellis, and the speedy action of the general government of the United States, as the brightest features in the prospect now before us. Your knowledge of my situation and circumstances, render any apology unnecessary for this imperfect scroll.

I remain your humble servant,
H. A. G. LEE.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
November 24, 1845.

Hon. Wm. L. Marcy,
Secrntary of War.

Two interesting and very instructive reports have been received from the sub-agent west of the Rocky Mountains. They present that country in a new and important light to the consideration of the public.

The advancement made in civilization by the numerous tribes of Indians in that remote and hitherto neglected portion of our territory, with so few advantages, is a matter of surprise. Indeed, the red men of that region would almost seem to be of a different order from those with whom we have been in more familiar intercourse. A few years since, the face of a white man was almost unknown to them; now, through the benevolent policy of the various christian churches, and the indefatigable exertions of the

missionaries in their employ, they have described and well adapted rules for their government, which are observed and respected to a degree worthy of the most intelligent whites.

Numerous schools have grown up in their midst, at which their children are acquiring the most important and useful information. They have already advanced to a degree of civilization that promises the most beneficial results to them and their brethren on this side the mountains, with whom they may, and no doubt will at some future period, be brought into intercourse. They are turning their attention to agricultural pursuits, and, with but few of the necessary utensils in their possession, already produce sufficient in some places to meet their every want.

Among some of the tribes hunting has been almost entirely abandoned, many individuals looking wholly to the soil for support.

The lands are represented as extremely fertile, and the climate healthy, agreeable, and uniform.

Under these circumstances, so promising in their consequences, and grateful to the feelings of the philanthropist, it would seem to be the duty of the Government of the United States to encourage their advancement, and still further aid their progress in the paths of civilization. I therefore respectfully recommend the establishment among them of a full agency, with power to the president to make it an acting superintendency; and to appoint one or more sub-agents whenever, in his judgment, the same may become necessary and proper.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. MEDILL.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY, April 4, 1845.

Sir: Through the politeness of Governor McLaughlin, the Hudson's Bay express leaving, via. the mountains for Canada tomorrow—I have again the honor and pleasure of addressing you from this remote portion of earth.

Since my last, of November, 1844, giving an account of the destruction of the distillery the general health, quietness, prosperity, and rapid growth of the colony, together with the good order and decorum which prevailed throughout at the courts, all has moved forward here as satisfactorily as could have been expected.

Starting too late, and the winter rains setting in earlier than usual, subjected the emigrants to incredible suffering and hardships, especially from the Dalles of the Columbia down to the Willamette

valley; but our early and delightful spring is exerting a cheering and most salutary influence upon their hitherto depressed spirits. They have, bee like, been hived up in Oregon city during the winter, and are now swarming to the entire satisfaction of the first occupants of the hive; it not being wide and large enough for such an unexpected increase. The last emigration, numbering about a thousand, are generally pleased with the country, and are setting about their spring's work with becoming spirit and fortitude.

The Indians of this lower country, whose national honor and dignity are laid in the dust, are looking upon the rapid growth and increased strength of the whites with sorrowful countenances and sad hearts. The present state of things between us and them is peculiar, critical, unenviable, and dangerous, at least so far as peace and property are concerned.

For instance in proof—soon after I sent my despatches, the chief of the Fallatine plains, whose orderly conduct and that of his clan did honor to the Nez Perces laws, and the engagement we had mutually entered into, called on me, desiring my offices in procuring the mending of his gun. This being done, he invited me to come and see him and his people; said all was not right at his lodge; his tribe was divided, and all was not right; his influence was waning, and some of his people were becoming very bitter towards the Americans. Observing anxiety and mental reservation, I endeavored to draw out the secret, reminding him of the frequent communications he had brought me from the Rev. Messrs. Clarke and Griffin, bearing such satisfactory testimony to his previous quiet, orderly, and proper conduct, etc., but all I could learn was, "things are not right with us, and we are miserable."

The Camass, their principal dependance for food was cut off last season by reason of drought; and the deer are hunted so much by the late hungry western emigrant riflemen, that they have become wild, poor, and few in number. The chief left.

A few days after, I learned they had killed an ox and ate it, belonging to a neighboring white man. The owner was excited, and applied to one of the executive; a proclamation was issued, the military was called out—if it be lawful to call it such—and ample preparations made to avenge the national insult, and seek redress for this astounding loss. The army collected upon the opposite bank of the river, six miles from the position occupied by the enemy, talked bravely, long and loud, but the river was a little too high to cross that day—appointed another, the river being lower; none of the warriors appeared; nor could the executive, simply for the want of a few gallons of alcohol, abtain the necessary assistance to avenge the horrid wrong, and perform a brilliant military exploit. The chief, in his embarrassment and dis-

tress, came to me as usual for sympathy and succor. My coldness and look of severity—for which heaven forgive me!—keenly afflicted him. After a deep sigh and painful pause, peculiar to a wounded or injured Indian, he slowly rose, gently smiting upon his breast, and said, "Dr. White, I am a true man, and carry an honest heart. Do you remember my coming to get my gun mended last fall? Do you remember my words, that all was not right with our people, and my inviting you to come and see us? We had just before killed that old ox, and was then eating it." I enquired, had you anything to do with it personally? "Yes—I helped to kill it, and with my family, took and ate one-half of the animal. You saw the condition of my gun—our provisions were out; I and others had hunted for two days—our hunger was great. We held a council, and, hoping for success, I promised on condition nothing was caught till the setting of another sun, we would kill the first animal we met.

I travelled far, and wearied myself till evening; shot often, but killed nothing. We met this poor old ox, which our people would scorn to kill or eat except in cases of extreme hunger; my word was passed to my people; I could not go back from my word; I helped to kill and butcher the ox, and joined in eating him, and now my peace is gone. I am ashamed to see a white man's face —they look cold on me and shake the head; I cannot bear it; I cannot live so; I come to you to help me, for I am told they want to kill me. I do not want such feelings to exist; nor do I want to be hunted as a bear or wild beast for slaughter. I stand here a wisher of peace, willing to have you dictate the terms: but wish to have it remembered that we were distressed with hunger." "Suppose," said I, "the owner should require your rifle and four horses?" "You stand to judge between us, and I shall abide your decision." "But you have broken your engagement and forfeited confidence, and I fear it cannot be settled, as some think you have killed cattle before." "Doctor White, I am a true man, and lie not. I nor my people, cannot be so accused justly; this is injurious; none can meet my face and say it." I wrote, through him to the owner, praying, as it was the first offence so far as we had the least evidence, and especially in view of our critical situation, and his general good behavior, that he would fully indemnify himself; and then, in view of what I knew of the condition of his gun, and and the probability that it was induced by hunger, to settle it; and requested him to assure the chief that he was convinced from my letter and all the circumstances in connexion with his past good conduct, that it must have been brought about by hunger.

The advice was rejected, as the laws of the organization now had cognizance of the offence, and he wished to see them faithfully

enforced. Public opinion became divided, and no judicial expression being made, and the poor chief becoming excessively tired of being held by public opinion in durance vile, came to see me a second time. I wrote again, and learned that it was settled by the chief and his people paying his rifle and eight horses. If this be correct —as I fear it is—I abominate the act, and dread its prejudicial influence.

Week before last a hungry and mischievous lodge killed a cow. They were pursued by a party of whites, overtaken, and, in attempting to take them the Indians fired upon the whites, killed one horse, and wounded another. The fire was returned, one Indian killed, and a second wounded. Thus ended this affair, which created very little excitement among whites or Indians.

The most painful circumstance that has occurred lately, transpired last fall in California. The Keyuse, Wallawallas, and some of the chiefs of the Spokans, entered upon the hazardous, but grand and important enterprise of going directly through the Indian country to California, with a view of exchanging their beaver, deer, and elk skins, together with their surplus horses for neat stock. As they had to pass through an extensive country, inhabited by the savage and warlike Clamets and Chestes, where Smith, Turner, and so many other white parties had been defeated, we are at a loss to conclude whether their valor is more to be commended than the rashness of their stupendous enterprise to be censured. They were well mounted and equipped; the chiefs clad in English costume, and the residue attired in dressed skins, moulded according to their several tastes. The journey of seven or eight hundred miles, after some fighting, watching, and much fatigue, was accomplished, and their numbers not lessened.

Taking their own statement, their reception was cordial, and the impression made upon the whites by these distant and half-civilized people, upon and errand so commendable, was most favorable. The treating and salutations being over, the trade commenced in good faith, and to mutual satisfaction. All moved on well, till, on an excursion to procure elk and deer skins, they met a marauding band of mountain free-booters, fought them, and, being victorious, took a prize of twenty-two horses, all previously stolen from the whites.

On returning to the settlements, the Spaniards laid claim to the animals. The chiefs remonstrated, and said, agreeably to their customs, the horses were theirs. The Spaniards explained their laws, and showed the animals not to be ventored, i. e., bearing a transfer mark, and told the Indians they must give them to the rightful owners, as all Americans and others did. The Indians seemed grieved, and rather incensed; said in their country six nations of people were on terms of amity, and that in case any one

of these six nations stole a horse, the tribe was responsible for the safe delivery of that animal to the rightful owner; but in case the Blackfeet or other formidable enemy steal or capture, the property is supposed lost, without redemption; and as we have captured these horses at the hazard of our lives, from your long openly declared enemies, we think they ought in justice to be ours. The Spaniards condescended to offer ten cows for the redemption of the horses; the chief not replying five more were added; he still remaining moody, and without replying, the negotiation unhappily broke off. A day or two after, an American, seeing his mule among the number captured, told the Indians it was his mule, and have it he would. Will you, said a young chief by the name of Elijah Heading; and stepping into the lodge, immediately loaded his rifle, came out and observed significantly, go now and take your mule. The American, much alarmed, remarked, I hope you are not going to kill me. No! I am going to shoot yonder eagle, perched upon a neighboring oak. Not liking the appearance, the man left without attempting to obtain his mule. A day or two after the Indians left their encampment and walked down to the fort of Captain Suter to church; and from the best information we have obtained—all being ex parte—the following appears to be near the truth:

After service, Elijah was invited into another apartment, taking with him his uncle, a brave and sensible chief of the age of five-and-forty; while there, in an unarmed and defenceless condition, they commenced menacing him for things alleged against the river Indians of this upper country, in which none of them had any participation; called them indiscriminately dogs, thieves, &c., &c. This American then observed, yesterday you were going to kil me—now you must die—drawing a pistol. Elijah, who had beenl five or six years at the Methodist mission, and had learned to read, write, and speak English respectably, said deliberately—let me pray a little first; and kneeling down, at once commenced; and while invoking the divine mercy, was shot through the heart or vitals dead upon the spot. Every measure, as the Indians say, was taken to cut them all off by the Spaniards, who brought out the cannon, with other fire-arms, and hotly pursued them, and tried to prevent their escape by checking and interrupting their passage across the ferries, &c., &c. But at length they all arrived safely, after manifest suffering, leaving the herds they had paid for in California.

They met three Americans on the way as they left the California settlements and had them in their power; but instead of revenging the death of Elijah, they mounted each on a horse of their own, and sent them in, telling them to go to the fort and acquaint the people that, as christians, they could not kill innocent white people, who were in their power and lodge.

Taking for truth an Indian report, this horrible affair creates considerable excitement, and there is some danger of its disturbing the friendly relation that has hitherto existed between us here, and all those formidable tribes in the region of Wallawalla and Snake rivers. They had no sooner arrived than Ellis, my interpreter, the high chief of the Nez Perces, was deputed to come down and learn our opinion regarding the affair. They could not have sent a better agent, the whites all giving him a handsome and cordial reception. From Wallawalla he accompanied Mr. Grant, the chief trader at Fort hall, down to Vancouver. He called on Dr. McLaughlin, whose great experience and address was serviceable. He spoke touchingly of the violent death of his own son upon the northwest coast, and left the impression that he could not avoid sympathising with the father and friends of the young chief. Mr. Douglas, too, an early friend, patron, and favorite of Ellis, aided much in convincing him that all the good and virtuous could not avoid the most painful regrets at so melancholy a circumstance, which must have occurred by reason of the difference in their customs or laws; imperfectly understanding each o her, or from some, as he would charitably hope, excusable- circumstance.

Under the influence of this salutary language and interview, Ellis arrived at my residence, in Willamette, about the first instant, having a short time before, got a hasty communication, written in excitement, from Dr. Whitman, who was under serious apprehensions that it might be avenged upon some of the whites of the upper country. Be assured I was happy to see this, my most faithful friend and interpreter. Sir, pardon me far saying—isolated as we are here, agitated as we have a thousand times been, by faithless savages, and still more faithless whites, responsible, yet powerless and defenceless in our unsettled state of things—to meet with this honest man, this *real* friend, though an Indian, gave me hearty pleasure.

His thorough education at Red river, moulded him into more of the white man than Indian. His prudence and good management with his tribe sanctioned the choice that had been made, and all the whites spoke handsomely of his kind offices and obliging deportment, whilst emigrating through his country. Being satisfied of the safety and policy, I feasted him well, and took at once unobserved measures to have him invited to every respectable place abroad, where the ladies and gentlemen received him so cordially, and feasted him so richly and delicately, that he almost forgot the object of his embassy, and, I verily believe, thought extremely highly of the whites at Willamette, however he might have thought of the conduct of the Californians.

Being anxious to make this visit useful to him and his people,

as well as pleasant, after spending a few days in visiting the schools, as well as the principal inhabitants and places of interest, I showed him my little library, told him to make himself at home; put on my farmer's garb, and commenced working on my plantation. He soon came out, accompanied by a wealthy cousin, and begged for tools to assist me. I loaned them, and found he was much at home in their use. He spent with me a sufficient length of time to convince me of the truth reported concerning his cheerfulness in labor, as well as his knowledge, application, and assiduity in business. He spoke sensibly of the advantages of industry, and the astonishing change that had been effected among his people, by the cultivation of the soil; assured me that every family or lodge now raised an abundance for home consumption, besides having considerable quantitios to barter with the whites. He says he raised himself, the past season, six hundred bushels of peas, with a fine crop of wheat, potatoes, beans, &c. &c.; spoke properly of its moral and social effects. Wars were no longer talked of, and the chase was nearly abandoned; the book and the Bible consumed their leisure moments. Polygamy, once so common, except in two solitary cases, was done away, and not a lodge of my people but observe the Sabbath, and regularly attend morning and evening devotion. All this was only coroborative of what I had previously heard from other sources. He spent ten days with me, in the most cheerful, agreeable, and profitable manner, and at the close I felt myself the better and happier for the visit; nor did I marvel that his influence was increasing and the prospects of his people brightening.

Pardon me; for, in thinking of his visit and dwelling upon his excellencies, I had like to have forgotten his agency. Learning from Dr. Whitman, who resides in their midst, how much they were all excited by reason of the treacherous and violent death of this educated and accomplished young chief, and perhaps more especially by the loss they had sustained; and then, after suffering so many hardships, and encountering so many dangers, losing the whole—I apprehended there might be much difficulty in adjusting it, particularly as they lay much stress upon the restless, disaffected scamps late from Willamette to California, loading them with the vile epithets of "dogs," "thieves," &c. &c., from which they believed, or affected to, that the slanderous reports of our citizens caused all their loss and disasters, and therefore held us responsible. He assured me that the Wallawallas, Keyuse, Nez Perces, Spokans, Ponderays, and Snakes, were all on terms of amity, and that a portion of the aggrieved party were for raising about two thousand warriors of these formidable tribes, and march to California at once, and nobly revenge themselves on the inhabitants by capture and plunder, enrich themselves upon

the spoils; others, not indisposed to the enterprise, wished first to learn how it would be regarded here, and whether we would remain neutral in the affair. A third party were for holding us responsible, as Elijah was killed by an American, and the Americans incensed the Spaniards. Ellis reminded me at the same time of the ill success the chiefs met with in trading off their ten dollar drafts for herds, with the emigrants; which drafts I had sent np by Mr. Lee, my interpreter, to secure peace and safety while the emigrants were passing through their country; the year before so many having been pillaged and robbed of their effects, through the inattention of the chiefs.

Sir, how this affair will end, is difficult to conjecture; the general impression is, that it will lead to the most disastrous consequences to the Californians, themselves, or to this colony. My principal fear is, that it will result in so much jealously, prejudice and disaffection, as to divert their minds from the pursuit of knowledge, agriculture, and the menas of civilization, which they have been for such a length of time so laudably engaged in obtaining.

Should this be the case with these numerous brave, and formidable tribes, the results to them would be indeed most calamitous. To prevent such a result I wrote, through Ellis, a long, cordial, and rather sympathising letter to the chiefs of these tribes, assuring them that I should at once write to the Governor of California, to Captain Suter, and to our great chief respecting this matter. With a view to divert attention, and promote good feeling, I invited all the chiefs to come down in the fall, before the arrival of the emigrants, in company with Dr. Whitman and Mr. Spalding, and confer with me npon this subject; at the same time, as they had been so unfortunate, to bring along their ten dollar drafts, and exchange them with me for a cow and calf, each out of my own herds. I likewise wrote them, that on condition they would defer going to California till the spring of 1847, and each chief assist me to the amount of two beaver skins, to get a good manual labor literary institution established for the English education of their sons and daughters—a subject they feel the deepest interest in—I would use every measure to get the unhappy affair adjusted; and, as a token of my regard for them, would, from my private funds, give the chiefs five hundred dollars, to assist them in purchasing young cows in California. I likewise proffered, as they are so eager for it, to start the English school next fall, by giving them the services of Mr. Lee, my interpreter, for four months, commencing in November next.

Ellis more than properly appreciated my motives and proffers, and said he was of the full belief that the chiefs would accede to my proposition; spoke of the importance of the English school,

and of the strong and general desire to obtain it. He left in high hopes of a continuance of peace and onward prosperity to his people.

A few days later brought me into another excitement and difficulty, at Vancouver. Two young men, named in McLaughlin's communication to this government—a copy of which, marked A, together with a reply, accompanying these despatches—crossed the Columbia river, and, unobserved, in the midst of a little thicket something over half a mile from Fort Vancouver, felled some timber—threw up a few logs in the shape of a hut, intending soon to finish it—put up a paper upon a contiguous tree, stating that they had commenced and intended to establish a claim agreeably with——here the note ended. Some one about the establishment, observing the paper and commencement of the hut, reported it to the Governor, who sent down at once and had all the timber removed from the vicinity; the tree felled, and that, with the paper likewise, removed. They had hardly cleared the ground when the claimants arrived with a surveyor, and commenced surveying off a section of land, embracing the post first commenced upon. They were enqnired of, at the instance of Gov. McLaughlin, as to their object and intentions. They at once laid down the chain, dropt all business, and walked up to the Fort. Several respectable and influential American citizens happened to be present on business, who, with myself, were respectfully invited to hear the discussion.

Williamson, a modest and respectable young man, deported himself with propriety; but Alderman, his associate, a boisterous, hair-brained young fellow, caused me—as occasionally others do—to blush for American honor. His language was most severe, and, but for the sake of the country's quiet, could not have been endured; the Governor and Mr. Douglass displaying their usual calmness and forbearance. I heard the discussion for two hours; and, becoming satisfied that no possible good could grow out of it, remarked that with the cheerful consent of both parties I would give my sense of the matter.

Each readily consenting, I thought best to come up on the blind side of Alderman; treated his measures with less severity, and himself with more consideration and respect, than he anticipated; then spoke of Greenough's construction of the treaty between the two governments—which I happened to have with me—of the immense district of country dependant upon this establishment for supplies in beef, pork, etc., and as evidence that they had no more land contiguous than was necessary for their purposes, spoke of the number of cattle and other stock that had died from starvation during the last winter; dwelt upon the importance of union and good feeling among all the whites, surrounded as we were by

savages, in our weak and defenceless condition, and of the propriety of establishing correct precedents in our unsettled state, regarding land claims; and, without advising particularly either party, took my seat.

Williamson and Alderman soon manifested a desire for a private interview, which resulted in a suspension of hostilities for the present, and probably an abandonment of the claim.

Now, my dear sir, suffer me to write a few things concerning this country, which seem to me strongly to demand the speedy attention of the members of our government. Take fifty men from the colony, of the most intelligence, firmness, and prudence, and anarchy and confusion would follow. Suffer a free introduction of ardent spirits, and desolation, horror, dismay, and bloodshed ensue. Never were a people more illy prepared for self-government, nor more unfavorably circumstanced to succeed—aside from the single fact of the absence of intoxicating drinks.

Sir, too great a portion of our population comes from the western suburbs of civilization, for one moment's safety to us in our present condition. I know not but I have as much patience as most men, but am heartily tired of this state of things. Nor would I run the risk again, by land and water, from whites and savages, for the safety and quietness of the colony and country, for all the wealth of earth. I have not shrunk from toil, danger, nor hardships, and though alone-handed and unsustained blackballed and traduced, astonishing to say, my measures have as yet succeeded. I think of the past with a clear conscience, yet at present, at peace as we are, I look upon our critical condition with an anxious, aching heart, feeling that the members of our government err exceedingly towards their citizens in Oregon.

As I have so often said of this lower country, with its beauty, excellence of soil, and mildness of climate, it might be rendered the paradise of earth; but, sir, every thing is jeopardized by the tardiness of our government measures; not only the poor, injured natives, but the whites generally, have become wearied to impatience in waiting for an expression from our government, and disaffection, with a want of confidence, is taking the place of previous warm feeling and strong attachment.

I regret this exceedingly, but feel it my duty to speak out in truth and distinctness on this important point. I have said and done what I could to keep up confidence and hope; but already aspirants are haranguing in favor of independence, and using the most disparaging language regarding the measures of our government as a reason for action. These are but the beginnings, and, though I am glad to say such sentiments do not generally obtain, yet they are more favorably listened to this year than last; their natural results and practical tendency you will readily perceive.

Your annual report of 1843, reached me only a few days since, having been broken open on the way, then put into the hands of Indians, and forwarded to me through that channel. And while I have to regret never having received any thing from your pen, be assured I am not insensible to the honor done me, in speaking as you did of my report, through yours of 1843 to the Secretary of War. I feel any kind expression from home the more sensibly, from the torrent of opposition I have been forced to meet and contend with here; but I am happy to observe that my influence is increasing, and my measures are being better understood and appreciated.

Influence here is most important; I felt this strikingly a few weeks since. Three among the most correct and sensible men of the colony formed a co-partnership to enter largely upon the brewery business. They had already taken some steps; and as the business promised to be lucrative, the probabilities were against me in attempting to dissuade them from their purpose. I visited them, labored calmly, honestly, and faithfully, and felt the difference of dealing or talking with men of sense and principle, over many with whom I have to do in Oregon.

The interview broke up most agreeably, not an unpleasant sentence having passed; the gentlemen engaging to give me their decision very soon. This was communicated to me two days after, in a delicate and handsome manner, which was entirely to my wishes, the business being altogether abandoned. This was most gratifying to me, as from such a quarter should beer be introduced, it would be impossible for us to prevent the introduction of stronger drink into the colony and country, which, of all others, is most illy prepared to receive it.

The colony, now numbering about four thousand, is in a most flourishing state, and I am doubtful if any like number are more pleased or better contented in our wide domain. The schools of the country during the last winter have been well sustained; I have contributed to each, as was necessary, from ten to fifteen dollars, to pay rents, etc., and to encourage them forward in their laudable struggle to educate their rising families.

I attended the examination of the Methodist institute school a few weeks since, and was most agreeably impressed regarding the institution.

The pleasant deportment and improved manners of the young ladies and gentlemen of the school, saying nothing of their astonishing advancement in the different departments of literature, was a cause of the highest gratification. I have nowhere attended an examination, taking all things into the account, more creditable to the principal or institution. I have called for a report, but am sorry to say it has not yet come to hand.

The branches taught are rhetoric, grammar, geography, arithmetic, reading, writing, and spelling. The most enlightened and best disposed are using their influence to strengthen the organization, and perfect the laws of the colony. Many are favorable to the adoption of a constitution, by calling a convention for that purpose the present season. This being the most enlightened sense, and meeting with little opposition, I am of the opinion it will prevail. Should this be effected, the constitution, accompanied with a petition, will probably be forwarded by a delegate from this country to Washington city the coming winter. As the friends to the constitution generally wish best to the country, and desire to have every thing so conducted as not to embarrass, but meet with acceptance at home, I am solicited to be said delegate and represent the wants of Oregon. A circulating medium is greatly needed; however, the enterprise and onward march of this people cannot easily be repressed. Through the auspices of the Hudson's Bay Company almost every man, requesting and needing it, is helped to sufficient means to commence on his section of land; and, certainly, by far the greater number give evidence of well-placed confidence. The prairies are dotted over with houses, and the fruitful fields are spreading out widely all around us. Moral and religious influence, I regret to say, is waning; yet it is gratifying to observe an increasing interest upon the subject of schools and education; and I am happy to say we have now eleven schools this side of the mountains, most of them small, to be sure, but they are exerting a salutary and beneficial influence.

Pardon the length and want of interest of my report. Did not duty hold me here, or had I funds appropriated to travel abroad to explore this delightful region of surrounding country, from what I learn of vague reports, I have little doubt but much interesting, curious and important information might be collected. But here I am, doomed to sit, watch, and sometimes almost fight for peace between whites and Indians—the question of right and wrong becoming more and more complicated continually; while here, allow me say, the settling these difficulties necessarily costs me not a little. I believe most fully, in making a settlement with an Indian or tribe, to have it a happy, earnest and hearty one; and, in order to affect this, they require a present as a seal. And, sir, this is my principal means of usefulness or influence over these poor, and, in many instances, injured natives. Their seeming confidence and regard makes one the more patient and cheerful in doing for them; nor can I complain, as so many east of the mountains have been obliged to, of violated faith on the part of the Indians. From all I can learn, much of which little reliance is to be placed, there appears to be about twenty-seven thousand

Indians in the territory, allowing it to extend to 54° 40′ north latitude.

Mr. Lee's—my interpreter—report accompanying this, you will observe. I would have accompanied him but for the season of the year, and the prevalence of the dysentery, which is sweeping off the natives of this lower country. This gave rise to Dr. Long's bill, which, I hope, will be honored, as it was a work of humanity as well as policy. I directed it, as I could not possibly attend to those and these at the same time, there being about forty miles between us.

I hope, Providence permitting, to have the pleasure of seeing you and the other gentlemen of the departments, at Washington, in a few weeks, or months at longest, after this reaches, and of explaining my accounts and reasons for expenditures.

I had not expected to draft on the department this spring; but there was no other means of settling with Gov. McLaughlin. for the want of a circulating medium through which to operate.

Enclosed is a letter from Peter H. Burnett, Esq., which I proposed forwarding in my last despatches, but received too late for transmission.

With great respect, I am, dear sir,

Your most humble and obedient servant,

ELIJAH WHITE,

Sub-Agent Indian Affairs, W. R. M.

ALBANY, JULY 29, 1846.

DR. ELIJAH WHITE:

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 22d inst. was duly received; and I regret that circumstances have prevented an earlier answer. In compliance with your request, I proceed to state the circumstances of your appointment of Indian sub-agent for the Oregon country.

Soon after entering the war department, my attention was turned to the condition of the citizens residing upon, or in the vicinity of the Columbia river. They were not only without any government to regulate themselves, but they were practically without the protection of their own government, and exposed to the encroachments of the British authorities there, as well as to the attacks of the Indians.

In the then condition of our relations with Great Britain it was very important that our citizens should have some known agent of the government, to whom they might look for advice and some degree of protection; and it was equally important that the government should have some trustworthy and responsible officer upon

the spot, to watch our interests and inform us of every movement of the British authorities and of the Hudson's Bay Company, and to interpose, as far as possible, to prevent Indian aggressions. While the subject was under consideration, both by the president and myself, you appeared at Washington and was introduced to me. We learned that you had resided at Willamette, on the Columbia, and in conversation with you, I found you to be well informed on the subject, and that you fully appreciated the objects of an agency there. After consultation with the president, and with Dr. Linn, the distinguished Senator from Missouri, who for years had taken particular interest in the matter, and with their advice and sanction, I proposed to you the appointment of Indian sub-agent for the Indians west of the Rocky Mountains—that being the only office in the power of the executive to bestow which would at all answer the purpose in view, and you was URGED to accept it, and to raise as large a company of our citizens as possible, to proceed with you, and settle in the Oregon country. The insufficiency of the salary—seven hundred and fifty dollars—was admitted, but it was the best we could offer; and, as an inducement to you to accept the appointment, you was told that a bill had been, or would be, introduced into the Senate by Mr. Linn, in relation to the Oregon territory, in which provisions would be made for Indian agencies of a higher grade and greater compensation; and I think one thousand five hundred or two thousand dollars was mentioned as the probable salary. *You was assured*, that if such a bill passed Congress, you would receive an appointment to the highest grade of agency, and that you might depend upon the support of the department, and the good will of the president—and the utmost liberality consistent with the laws, in defraying any extra expenses which they authorized. Under these circumstances you accepted the appointment of sub-Indian agent, and I have no doubt with the expectation of receiving an appointment of a higher grade, and with a larger salary. The bill of Senator Linn did not pass, and you was left in the place to which you was originally appointed.

I bear testimony very cheerfully to the fidelity and zeal with which you discharged the duties of your station, and endeavored to accomplish the objects of Government. You succeeded in organizing a party of more than one hundred of our citizens to emigrate to Oregon; and I have every reason to believe that your services were eminently useful to the government, and beneficial to the settlers. I deeply regret that it was not in the power of the administration, of which I was a member, to render you adequate remuneration for those services, and for the great labor and toil, and the devotion of your time, to what was then deemed, and is still believed to have been objects of great public interest. I trust that

the present Congress will make a liberal provision for the deficiency.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. SPENCER.

Done by the House of Representatives of Oregon Territory, this 14th day of August, 1845:

Whereas the adoption by the people of this territory of the amended organic laws of Oregon was an act of necessity rather than of choice, and was intended to give to the people the protection which, of right should be extended to them by their government, and not as an act in defiance or disregard of the authority or laws of the United States. Therefore,

Resolved, 1st. That, in the opinion of this house, the Congress of the United States, in establishing a territorial government in Oregon, should legalize the acts of the people of this territory, so far as they are in accordance with the Constitution of the United States.

2d. That Dr. Elijah White, sub-Indian agent of this Territory. be requested to present a copy of the amended organic laws of Oregon to the Congress of the United States.

3d. That these resolutions be endorsed upon said copy, with the vote of the house adopting the same.

On the adoption of the above resolutions, the vote of the house was unanimous.

M. M. McCARVER, *Speaker.*

Attest: J. E. LONG, *Clerk.*

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REFLECTIONS.

It is of little use to speak of the past; the dignity, the power, the wealth, and prowess of the Indian is gone. His ancient customs are unsuited to his present surroundings—his wild fowl and game is gone or scattered and wild; he is lost to the use of the bow and arrow—the war song is not heard, and his dance is is seldom and but feebly performed; and all is sad and cheerless in prospect for the poor Indian.

His once wide extended, valued, and magnificent domain has passed into our hands—a narrow strip each side the distant Rocky Mountains only is left; and even there, at the centre of his only hope, is thrown in a large and flourishing colony of whites, killing and scattering his antelope, deer, elk and buffalo,

upon which his very existence depends. All their fine valleys are occupied by the whites; and a more forlorn and pitiable condition with more wretched prospects, were never spread out before the eye and mind of human beings.

We Republicans occasionally talk of the wrongs of the negro race. It would be wiser and more fitting to look closely to greater wrongs "at least in part easily remedied," nearer home.

We claim to be the guardians of the Indians, but do we guard, guide, or protect them as we should? Is our Indian system for the mutual benefit of the governed, and the government; or mainly for one party? Is it educational, or what is its object but to buy and pay for the Indians' land, and prevent their retaliation for wrongs often inflicted upon them by ruthless whites?

WHAT CAN AND SHOULD BE DONE?

Without respect to political considerations, "any more than as if acting as guardians for the children of *deceased relatives*," we ought to fill the offices under the present Indian system, with the wisest and best men that can be procured. And as all the usages and ideas of the natives are in the direction of a hereditary government; or, as with them, once a chief *always* a *chief;* and as by reason of this they are ADDLED, CONFUSED and *injured* by our frequent changes of officers, we should never change but for unfitness or mal-practice.

Farther, in my judgment, a new office should be created over each great department of the work; placing the officer contiguous to the *field of labor*—one for the Pacific, and two for this side the mountains.

This officer should be in fact and name, a supervisor of Indian Affairs, and his duties in substance as follows:

Not being a disbursing officer, and thereby less liable to corruption, he should see disbursed, and vouch for all large sums appropriated to the Indians of his district, in connection with the disbursing agents; and this would assist in arresting and preventing frauds and peculation. Second, he should supervise, say, and do what he could to advance education and improvement among the natives, and cultivate good understanding between agents, teachers, and missionaries, in the field over which he presides. Third: He should have power to suspend any officer, upon the proper proofs of violation of his instructions, under the laws of Congress, and place another in his stead till investigation could be had and redress sought at Washington. Fourth, he should be empowered, and he only of his district, to decide in relation to all wars, and none should be declared without his sanction and

concurrence, and he the power at any time to arrest when in his judgment, duty and the public interest demand such action.

In California and Oregon he should be empowered to call upon the Governors, in case of necessity for military assistance to stop the wicked raids of whites upon Indians, as well as Indians upon whites, and this being understood, would have a powerful influence in checking crime in both States.

He should be empowered to negotiate with the Board of Missions to establish such schools, and other means of improvement as in their united opinion should best promote the general good and advancement of the race.

In my judgment, at least one large Indian school could be sustained advantageously in California, another in Oregon, and possibly a third in Washington Territory; which, with proper encouragement from Government officers; as to a morally sustaining influence, would be kept and continued for any length of time, at the expense of the church alone, without asking aid from Government.

Twenty-five years observation has convinced me that the Indians of the Pacific coast, under anything like favorable circumstances, readily domesticate, and make as rapid advancement in civilization as other races. Their intellect I consider as good, their memory as strong, their purposes as firm, their natural dignity and self respect equal to any; and as they are now consciously under the necessity of changing their pursuits, I am satisfied, with proper encouragement they would reasonably advance in the arts of civilized life. Indeed, should I judge them from the few feeble efforts in their behalf put forth in Oregon, previously to large numbers of emigrants from the western borders of civilization rushing in upon them, I should be obliged to say their improvements were astonishing; especially some four or five tribes embracing the Nez Perces, Keyuse, Pondrays, &c., &c.

The fault is less with the Indians than with the whites. We are wickedly remiss in duty toward the Red man. We rule *too much*, and gently guide, lead, and instruct *too little*. As a christian Government with benevolent intentions always in view, we have managed our Indian Affairs most bunglingly; *almost* from *first* to *last*, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. A few feeble, ineffectual efforts have been put forth to support small schools here, and there, by the Department; but such as under like circumstances, would have proved failures with any race in the world; and the whole race is condemned as not capable of mental culture or civilization. A fourth part expended to protect them in their natural rights, and to furnish them good and wholesome instruction, from moral and humane teachers, that has been

expended in unnecessary wars, and long before this they would have been a comparatively civilized and happy people. Had the Government sought their agents with a special view, as *certainly they should*, to the good of the Indian; and when found adapted to the service, retained him; much evil would have been saved and good done; but all our management has been against the poor Indian, and calculated to crush and ruin his prospects for any earthly good.

Congress and the Department at Washington has been alike at fault, Congress for not instituting better laws; and then pressing upon the President the appointment of improper persons to fill those important places of trust. The Executive has a thousand times gone counter to his convictions of duty, from these improper pressures, and importunities. The Commissioners err too as badly at Washington. For years, while sub-agent in Oregon, I importuned for further light, and clearer instruction; a word of encouragement or something to cheer me on in duty, but that WORD *never* come.

I mention these things in hopes to incite to better action in the future. The Commissioner, in my judgment, should keep up a correspondence with all his agents, writing as often as possible—it is attended with the happiest results.

The errors of our fathers, or our own past remisness, we cannot now remedy; we must look at the present, meet the emergency, and, act with a view to the future.

The last ten years of Indian wars, bloodshed, and *waste* of *treasure*, on the Pacific, "so demoralizing to both races," ought, should, and must be stopped—such havoc of a weak and *defenceless people;* by a civilized, powerful, and *christian nation*, reflects dishonor on our HEADS and *hearts*; and, in all modesty, yet, in great earnestness; I call upon this administration to exert its influence in favor of wise and pacific measures for the peace, security, improvement, and happiness of the poor Indians of our country. The Hon. Henry R. Schoolcraft, our Indian historian, says our system is defective. May this receive due consideration from Congress, and in the meantime, under the present law, may our good President select with great care our wisest and best men to fill the various posts, without respect to outside pressure; and may our present Commissioner steadily maintain his *high purpose* of renovatig his department; and placing all under him, in harmonious action for the promotion of the best interests of the Government and the governed.